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Making Clarks History ... Page 7A
(Credit: Joshua Joseph)



Countdown Begins To Florida Primary ... Page 1B

VOTE OR ELSE



Will Redistricting Stir Caribbean, Black Voters To Get Out And Vote? ...Page 3

Children march in support of voting rights in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

(Photo Credit: [STEVE BOUSQUET – Tampa Bay Times] image)

INSIDE

News	2A	Entertainment	11A	Travel	14A
Feature	8A	Food	12A	Sports	15A
Viewpoint	9A	Health	13A	Back To School	17A



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Here are the regional headlines making news this week:

Regionally

Three Caribbean countries have been placed by the U.S. at Tier 3 on the latest Trafficking In Persons report.

Cuba, Sint Maarten and Curacao are at the highest Tier, according to the U.S. State Department report, because either their governments do not fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, (TVPA)'s minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so and the country has severe forms of trafficking.

Both Sint Maarten and Curacao were downgraded due to inaction by their governments, the report said.

And the billionaire founder of an international mobile phone network and home entertainment provider operating in over 33 markets across the Caribbean and Central America has announced a plan to deliver reparations for slavery to Caribbean countries.

Denis O'Brien, the Irish-born founder and chairman of Digicel Group, made the announcement while delivering the keynote address at CANTO 2022 at the Fountainbleu Hotel in Miami, according to Loop News.

According to O'Brien, the



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks during the 2022 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report launch ceremony at the State Department. (AP/Manuel Balce Ceneta/Pool)

Repair Campaign reparations project will see former European colonizing countries creating an investment funding arrangement for each of the Caribbean countries affected by slavery.

The fund will be used to promote major projects in agriculture, health and education among other sectors over 25 years.

JAMAICA

Between January 1 to July 16, the Jamaica Constabulary

Force, (JCF), says the island has recorded 805 murders, a two percent increase when compared to the same period last year when there were 786 murders. Jamaica had recorded 1,463 murders in 2021.

The St Catherine North Police Division, reported an increase of 23 murders, from 55 cases last year to 78 cases this year, while Westmoreland, south of the capital, is up by 21, from 56 last year to 77 this year.

The JCF said that the

St. Andrew South, southeast of here, had recorded 68 murders, a decrease of 31 when compared to the 99 cases for the corresponding period last year.

Trelawny, situated northwest of the island, had the highest percentage increase in murders, with a 257 per cent rise. There were 25 murders committed in the parish compared with seven for the corresponding period in 2021. The northeast coast parish of Portland is the least murderous parish in 2022, having recorded seven murders over the period. The JCF also reported an eight per cent decrease in the number of number of shootings island wide, adding that there were 632 incidents, 53 less than last year.

HAITI

Haiti has extradited 40-year-old Maxony Germinal to the United States where he is accused of being one of the arms and ammunition suppliers of the notorious criminal organization "400 Mawozo" involved in kidnapping and murders in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

Germinal was arrested on April 26th in Malpasse, a town in the Croix-des-Bouquets Arrondissement in the Ouest department of Haiti as he was preparing to cross the border to go into the Dominican Republic.

Germinal is also accused of being one of the accomplices in the October 17, 2021 kidnapping of 17 American missionaries from a Christian religious organization located in Ohio, as well as members of their family including children.

Germinal is the second Haitian involved in the kidnapping of the American missionaries to be handed over to US authorities, following the extradition of 26-year-old Jean Pelice on May 16, 2022. Pelice appeared in the US court on July 7th. According to the complaint, Pelice, along with other members of the gang used firearms to guard the missionaries during their captivity.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The Trinidad and Tobago government says the country has recorded a windfall of more than eight billion dollars (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) as a result of the increase in prices for oil and energy products on the global market but warned that the funds would not be used solely to pay one section of the population salary increases and arrears.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, speaking at a news conference, said that Finance Minister Colm Imbert will outline the financial situation of the country when he addresses the nation on September 2nd. But he told reporters that the

windfall would be used to lessen the deficit from TT\$16 billion to just under four billion.

SURINAME

Suriname has been rocked by a major fraud scandal in which millions of dollars (One SRD\$=US\$0.04 cents) have been withdrawn from the bank account of the Ministry of Finance and Planning through forged documents and receipts.

The authorities said that a total of SRD\$40.9 million had been withdrawn from the account in April and June with the perpetrators presenting false documents to the Central Bank of Suriname (CBvS) for cashing.

A criminal investigation has since been launched and the bank accounts of persons and companies to which the stolen funds had been transferred have been seized.

GRENADA

The Grenada has denied social media reports that it had appointed an ambassador at large to Nigeria, as well as for staging an investment summit with the African country. Social media reports had indicated that on July 11, the new government had appointed Tochil Nwaneri from Imo State as the country's ambassador at large to Nigeria. The reports described Nwaneri as the chairman of Tochil Global Enterprises Ltd, Centrafrique Investment Group CIG.

"I am not aware of any investment summit ... and this is the first time I am hearing about it," prime Minister Dickon Mitchell told a news conference here, adding "I am not aware that the gentleman you referred to as being appointed to any diplomatic position.

GUYANA

The Guyana government has tabled legislation as part of the efforts to prevent cases of suicide in the country. The bill aims to address preventative measures to combat suicide and mental health awareness.

"This is a Bill that we have been working on for some time and it encompasses things that we can do to prevent suicides from happening," said Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony. "The Bill also provides for the repeal of the section of the law that criminalizes persons who attempt suicide."

Guyana has one of the highest rates of suicide worldwide. World Health Organization, (WHO), figures claim 44.2 in every 100,000 Guyanese take their own lives, compared to a global average of 16.

- *Rewritten from CMC, LoopNews and NewsAmericasNow.com*



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Will Redistricting Stir Caribbean, Black Voters To Get Out And Vote?

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Brazen redistricting by Florida Republicans and efforts to tighten voter laws, particularly vote-by-mail restrictions, even though the state experienced almost no issues with voting in 2020, are some of the reasons groups like Equal Ground says Black and Caribbean voters must vote come August 23rd.

According to Florida Division of Elections data, there more than 1.9 million Black voters, including Caribbean voters, in Florida. While Black voters had record turnout in the 2020 elections, turnout tends to be lower for midterm elections.

But with prominent Caribbean lawmakers on the Primary ballot, many are hoping for Caribbean voters, many of whom are naturalized citizens and registered Democrats, will vote.



Hazel Rogers

Hazelle Rogers and Dale Holness are the most prominent of the Caribbean born candidates in this August's elections. Both Jamaican immigrants, they are running for a seat on the Broward County Commission and in the US Congress, respectively.

Rogers, 69, is current Mayor of Lauderdale Lakes. On August 23rd, she goes up against fellow Democrat Guithele Ruiz-Nicolas to represent District 9, a seat Holness once represented before leaving last year to take a shot at Congress.

That region covers areas such as Plantation, Sunrise, Lauderhill and Lauderdale Lakes. It is currently represented by Torey Alston, who was named by Governor Ron DeSantis to succeed Holness.

A former Florida State senator, Rogers is due to leave her post as Lauderdale Lakes mayor in 2024. According to floridapolitics.com, she has outraised Ruiz-Nicolas in donations since announcing her candidacy in May.

Rogers, who migrated to the US from Jamaica in 1969, points to her track record working with private and public sector groups, as well as non-profit organizations, as adequate credentials to succeed Alston.

But Ruiz-Nicolas, a businesswoman who owns a

public relations firm, has earned the endorsement of the influential Sun Sentinel newspaper. Born in Haiti, she came to the United States at age 11 and is involved in South Florida's Haitian community.

"As your next Broward County Commissioner, I intend to be the voice for my constituents especially the most vulnerable members of our

community. I intend to work hard to make Broward County an inclusive place to live, work, and prosper for generations to come," she vowed.

Her message is not much different than that of Rogers. Ruiz-Nicolas has committed to assisting those most affected by Covid-19, such as veterans, the elderly and small businesses.

HOLNESS

Like Rogers, Holness, 65, is a mainstay of the South Florida community, with over 25 years of experience as a representative at different levels. He is looking to unseat Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, whom he lost to last November.

Holness was highly touted to win nine months ago and assume Democratic leadership

of Florida's 25th Congressional District, following the death in April of stalwart Alcee Hastings, his close friend and mentor.

But he lost by five votes to Cherfilus-McCormick, a first-generation Haitian American.

Dr. Garth Rose, who has followed South Florida politics for over 20 years, believes

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4A)

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SHOCKING - Lisa Hanna Quits Representational Politics

The leader of the main opposition People's National Party (PNP), Mark Golding has praised the commitment of legislator, Lisa Hanna, to

Jamaica, following her shocking announcement that she was leaving representational politics. "Comrade Hanna's commitment to Jamaica remains

an inspiration to our youth and those looking to enter representational politics. I look forward to continue [to] working with Comrade Hanna on areas in which she is passionate and has achieved significant results," Golding said in a statement.

In her letter to Golding announcing her decision, Hanna, 46, the PNP's spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, said she would not be offering herself as a candidate for the PNP for the next general election.

"I have always been a champion of change and having the courage to do what's right even when it's not expedient or self-serving, as I believe courage has an obligation to pave new roads for the generation coming behind us," she stated. "As such, I have recently decided to



MP Lisa Hanna, the PNP's spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, has hung up her representational politics gloves.

Miss World 1993, becoming the third Jamaican to win the title, however, added that she will remain available to serve at Golding's consideration in the Shadow Cabinet as Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Hanna, 46, first became a parliamentary representative in 2007, after being invited by former PNP president Portia Simpson Miller to join the party and be the standard bearer for St Ann Southeast in the general elections that year.

In a video posted on her social media platforms, Hanna sought to make it clear that she

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5A)

conclude my current journey in representational politics at the end of this term," she wrote.

Hanna, who was crowned

Will Redistricting Stir Caribbean, Black Voters To Get Out And Vote?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A)

Holness has a good chance at reversing the results, but another loss would mean the end of an outstanding career.

"Holness' loss would be an unfortunate setback in a career that seemed destined for Washington, D.C.," Dr. Rose told Caribbean Today. "It would also be a setback in the ambitions of Jamaican Americans from Florida to serve in the federal government. He is the first Jamaican American from Florida to seek election to the US Congress."

Still Dr. Rose admitted that Holness, may be facing another stiff challenge from the incumbent Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick but remains optimistic.

"I think Holness will make it to Congress this time," he said. "There are enough Jamaican-Americans on the voters list in Broward County and Palm Beach County to ensure Holness' election. But they must turn out to vote. Haitian Americans have little reservation in turning out to vote for their country-woman, so should Jamaican American voters



Dale Holness

for their country-man."

Holness' position is more tenuous than Rogers. His race against the much younger and feisty Cherfilus-McCormick has also been more contentious. In July, she filed a defamation lawsuit against Holness and his assistant Justin Porter for claiming Cherfilus-McCormick embezzled funds to buy her seat in Congress.

OTHER CARIBBEAN CONTENDERS

Elsewhere, Danielle Cohen-Higgins is expected to retain her post as Democratic representative for Miami-Dade County Commission District 8

against Alicia Arellano and Karen Baez-Wallis.

A lawyer, Cohen-Higgins was born in Miami to Jamaican parents. She has significantly outraised her opponents in terms of donations, according to floridapolitics.com.

Philippe Bien Aime, current Mayor of North Miami, is contesting the race as a Democrat for District 2 on the Miami-Dade County Commission against Wallace Aristide, Marleine Bastien, William Clark, former North Miami Mayor Josaphat Celestin and Monique Nicole Barley-Mayo.

Bien Aime, a successful businessman, was born in Haiti. He migrated to the US in 1993.

VOTE

With redistricting a reality and voter suppression tactics increasing by the Republic governor, groups like Equal Ground says Black voters should be more motivated than ever to turn out to the polls this year in higher numbers for races for the US Congress, State Senate, and County Commissions in Broward and Miami-Dade.



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Haitians Choose Between School Fees Or Food As Costs Rise

BY JOSEPH GUYLER DELVA
& ANASTASIA MOLONEY

Haitian domestic worker Rose Marie Saint-Fort had to pull two of her three teenage children out of classes this year as spiraling living costs meant she could no longer afford their school fees.

Like a majority of Haitians, Saint-Fort spends more than 60% of her income on food. With inflation sharply rising, many families have been forced to choose between skipping meals and or not sending their children to school.

"I have to spend most of my salary on food and school fees for my son," said Saint-Fort, whose two daughters aged 13 and 15 have been forced to drop out.

"It's been very hard for me to watch my children sitting at home, not being able to attend school while their wish is to be in a classroom."

Haiti's lack of functioning government means there is no reliable up-to-date official inflation data, but independent economist Etzer Emile estimated that it is running at more than 25%.

Since December, inflation across the Caribbean nation has seen prices of staple food rice rise by 44% and beans by about

SHOCKING - Lisa Hanna Quits Representational Politics

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5A)

will use other means to serve the country.

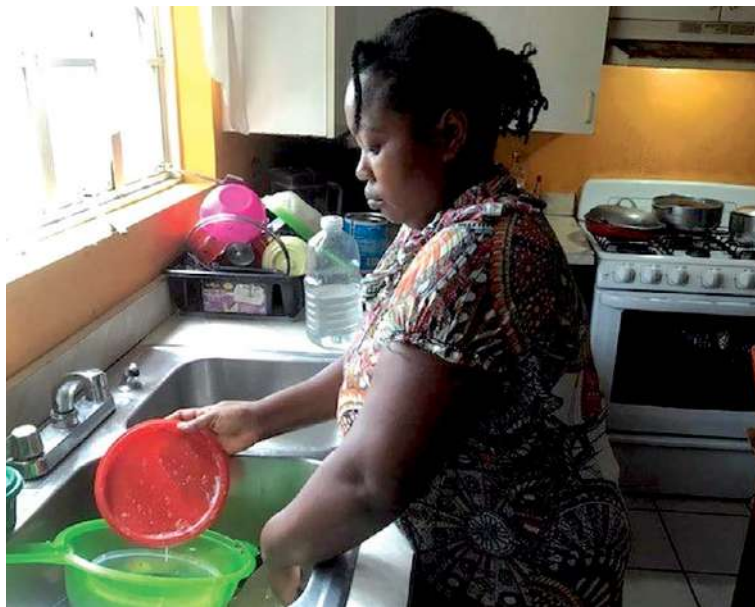
"The truth is there's lots that I could do, but I would not want to betray my core principle and my core philosophy – which is really serving the people of Jamaica and my country. That is my moral compass because I want to see our country do better."

She told her supporters that she would venture into an area that would help Jamaica build trade and improve the country's value-added trade of products and exports.

"I would find areas that would help our humanitarian efforts, particularly in rural Jamaica, to help people with water, for example," Hanna said, noting that politics is not the only way that a person can serve their country.

"There's several other areas, and those opportunities exist," she said, expressing gratitude for the outpouring of support from the public following her announcement.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Haitian domestic worker Rose Marie Saint-Fort washes dishes at the house she works in. Port-au-Prince, Haiti. July 4, 2022. (Thomson Reuters Foundation/Jennifer D. Delva image)

128%, while the cost of cooking oil nearly doubled, according to stallholders at a Port-au-Prince food market.

Countries worldwide have been hit by a perfect storm of rising global food and energy costs, largely triggered by the

Ukraine war and fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roughly a third of Haiti's 11.4 million people live in extreme poverty, barely surviving on less than \$2.15 a day, and about 4 million struggle to eat two meals a day.

That means even tiny price hikes can push people to the brink.

"One year ago, I could more or less live with my salary because the cost of living wasn't so high. Now, you need more than twice the money you needed to buy basic core products," said Saint-Fort, 40, as she cleaned dishes. "Unfortunately I don't have the means to leave the country, because it's clear my children have no future here."

Rising prices have been a cause of social unrest in Haiti. In 2008, a week of food riots left at least five people dead and fueled political instability.

For Pascal Pierre-Louis, 37, a high school teacher in the capital, Port-au-Prince, the inflationary squeeze has become "unbearable."

"The worst is that you don't see any sign that things will change for the better any time soon. Basic necessities will become more inaccessible," he said.

With little or no government help for the poor, most Haitians rely on food aid and money sent from relatives living abroad to survive.

Haiti's economic woes are compounded by long-standing political instability and the country has been in a political vacuum since President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in July 2021.

Rising gang violence has forced thousands of small businesses to shut up shop or reduce their opening hours.

"I stay open for only a few - four or five hours - while before I used to open for a whole day until very late in the night," said Junior Ferdinand, a 35-year-old bar owner in downtown Port-au-Prince.

"People are afraid to go out and when they stay home my business doesn't work. Practically for me it's bankruptcy."

- Thomson Reuters Foundation



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Vincentian Wanted In The US Found Guilty Of Murder In Homeland



Vernon Primus leaving the court on July 11, 2022. (CMC Photo)

A High Court judge in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has set September 21st as the date for the sentencing of a 35-year-old man, who was recently found guilty of murdering a 33-year-old real estate agent in November 2015.

A 12-member jury found Veron Primus, guilty of murdering Sharleen Greaves during the trial in which one of Primus' adult female relatives, with whom he had a consensual sexual relationship, testified that he told her that he murdered the real estate agent.

The prosecution led by

Karim Nelson told Justice Brian Cottle, who presided over the more than the month trial that prosecution would make every effort to be ready for mitigation ahead of sentencing.

Primus is also wanted in the United States, having been indicted in June 2016 in connection with the 2006 murder of 16-year-old Chanel Petro-Nixon. In October 2019, Primus was jailed in St. Vincent for 16 months for escaping lawful custody and in December 2020, was sentenced to 24 months for escaping lawful custody, a second time and three

months for damaging a sheet of plywood at Her Majesty's Prisons, in Kingstown, from which he escaped.

Primus has also served prison sentences in New York for first degree criminal contempt and third-degree burglary.

The court heard that the body of the real estate agent was found by her secretary, Ronella Bailey, in her office on November 13, 2015, less than 12 hours after a female, speaking in a hushed voice, telephoned the police general line, saying that someone had broken into her office at the building. The woman then began to scream and the telephone line went dead, as if someone had ended the call.

Detectives responded but found no sign of forced entry.

Primus, who was deported from the United States in June 2015, would not come to the attention of police until April 2016 when detectives, investigating a report by Mewanah Hadaway, then 24 years old, that he had kept her against her will in his home from January 1 to April 15, 2016.

Charges were brought

against Primus in connection with that allegation, but they were withdrawn as Hadaway was not available to testify in a preliminary inquiry in 2017.

A total of 20 witnesses,

17 of whom were called by the Crown, testified in the trial.

- CMC



Jailed For Raping 12-Year-Old

A 36-year-old taxi driver in Guyana will spend the next 16 years of his life in jail for raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl.

Feroz Shakeer was sentenced by Justice Priya Sewnarine-Beharry at the Demerara High Court recently for the rape. In June, a 12-member jury found Shakeer guilty of the offence committed on December 3, 2015.

During his sentencing hearing, the victim stated that she was taunted in school by her classmates who found out about the incident. She said that she soon after began self-harming herself and suffered suicidal thoughts.

"I would like to see him go to jail for a lifetime because he raped me when I was a child, only 12 years old. He robbed me of my childhood and turned what could have been a fun childhood with no care in the world into a nightmare," she said in her statement.

Shakeer's attorney, George Thomas, in his plea of mitigation, asked the court to consider that his client is the father of two and is the sole breadwinner for his family. The attorney said that even given the nature of the crime his client can be rehabilitated.

However, the prosecutor asked the court to consider the

heinous nature of the crime in which the victim was raped and traumatized by Shakeer.

The judge considered the nature of the crime and the fact that Shakeer showed no remorse for his actions. She also considered the physical and psychological trauma the crime had on the victim.

In her sentencing remarks, the judge said that having taken into consideration all the aggravating and mitigating circumstances of this particular case, the sentence of 16 years in prison is proportionate.

The court heard that Shakeer worked as a taxi driver and on the day in question, he picked up four school-aged children, including the victim. The court heard that Shakeer dropped one of the girls home, leaving the victim and the others in his car.

Instead of dropping the victim and the others to their requested destination, Shakeer drove to a remote location in Diamond where he gave the teens alcohol.

When the victim refused, Shakeer became annoyed. He then held her down and forced her to drink the "beer" and then raped her.

- CMC



Eight Police Officers Charged With Murder

Police in Trinidad and Tobago have had to file murder charges against eight of their colleagues following the killings of three men in the area of Morvant, on the outskirts of the capital Port-Of-Spain, in 2020.

The Office of the Director of the Public Prosecution (DPP) gave instruction to charge a sergeant and seven constables in the deaths of Joel Jacob, 38, Noel Diamond, 46, and Israel Moses Clinton, 27. Acting Police Commissioner Mc Donald Jacob, confirmed that the officers, who were arrested between last weekend, are to be charged with murder.

On June 27, 2020, 18 officers assigned to the Guard and Emergency Branch and the Inter-Agency Task Force, intercepted a vehicle. Jacob who was in the back seat with his childhood friend, Diamond, emerged with his hands in the

air. The driver, Clinton, also had his hand above the steering wheel as officers surrounded the car, pointed the automatic weapons.

The shooting incident was captured on CCTV cameras and shared on social media mere hours after the incident. The killing of the three men sparked three days of violent protests in the capital city and other parts of the country and the Prime Minister appointed a committee to find out the root causes of the protests.

After the men were shot, police bundled their bodies in the back of a jeep and sped off while other officers pointed their weapons at residents who were brave enough to peep through their windows, residents said.

- CMC



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We cover your world!

Caribbean New Yorker Makes History With Clarks

A Caribbean immigrant designer in New York has made history by creating his own Clark's silhouette – an exclusive shoe design with Clarks Originals and American designer Ronnie Fieg.

Trinidad-born designer Joshua Joseph of the New York-based fashion brand, Rebels to Dons, created the Rebels to Dons x Clarks shoe, a maycliff mule that was released on July 2nd online.

It was also launched at an in-store event at menswear boutique Blue in Green. The Rebels to Dons x Clarks shoe is part of 8th street – the sub label by Kith founder Ronnie Fieg.

Joseph says he took inspiration from the late 1970s and 80s, when a new wave of Caribbean immigrants imported their distinctive fashion and eternal love for Clarks into New York City's streetwear lexicon.

Honoring the two places that shaped him as a designer- he reimagined Fieg's Clarks maycliff into a mule, incorporating dynamic details that can morph into the wearer's day-to-night flex. Made of natural tan nubuck leather, the mule features hallmarks of the Clarks brand, from the crepe outsole to stitched upper detailing. Personalization comes courtesy of two removable fringed straps, one in a matching tan nubuck, and the



Trinidad-born designer Joshua Joseph of the New York-based fashion brand, Rebels to Dons, created the Rebels to Dons x Clarks shoe, a maycliff mule that was released on July 2nd online.

other a nubuck brun.

These trimmed straps can be swapped or layered together. Flexibility to do whatever you want to suit your versatile lifestyle. Inspired by the dreamers that characterize and underscore the mythology of New York City, Joseph reimagines streetwear styles that challenge the status quo of menswear and creates clothing for dreamers pursuing success on their own terms.

His collaboration with Clarks marks the next major chapter in the Caribbean's storied relationship with the British brand.

For decades, Clarks Shoes remain the preferred footwear of island-born icons and iconoclasts. In turn, the brand has released many Caribbean-inspired collections over the years.

"It's exciting to work with such a classic brand that has been a part of our culture for so long," said Joseph via a press release.

"And as the designer, I see this as an opportunity to give a sense of ownership to the people that truly embodied and embraced this brand so much."

Rebels to Dons was founded by Joseph in 2014 in New York City and reimagines streetwear styles that challenge the status quo of menswear.

The Clarks Maycliff mules are now available in store and online.

The closing event to celebrate the launch of the shoe also took place at Soho Beach House in Miami on July 30th.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



In Black Business Month This University Leads An Alliance To Build Hospitality Pipeline For Underrepresented Students

A bold, new initiative is under way across the U.S. to create a pathway for Black and Hispanic students to become future leaders in hospitality, one of the world's largest industries.

The Alliance for Hospitality Equity and Diversity (AHED), led by the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Florida International University (FIU), is on a mission to create a nationwide recruitment infrastructure to increase diversity among students at member universities. Targeting university recruitment is the first of many initiatives that will address the diversity pipeline that leads to hospitality C-suite opportunities. The Alliance brings together higher learning institutions and top hospitality brands and associations.

Black and Hispanic students represent less than one percent of all industry CEOs and presidents, and diverse student enrollments are down at almost all hospitality four-year colleges and universities. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only 5.8 percent of U.S. hospitality students identified as Black or African American. Additionally, women comprise less than 12 percent of hospitality leadership positions.

AHED serves as an immediate call for leading hospitality companies to diversify at the highest levels of leadership. The Alliance, through its council, will offer strategies and implement concrete solutions to enhance pathways for Black and Hispanic hospitality management students to become leaders.

"Our alliance is focused specifically on bridging the diversity gap confronting our industry, we plan to create social equity by channeling directed resources to lower socio-economic Black and Hispanic students. We plan to form equitable and broad access to higher education that leads to executive leadership positions," said Brian Barker, FIU Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management Endowed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion professor and director of the Alliance.

As the leading minority-serving institution in the country and a Top 10 hospitality school, FIU Chaplin School is initiating the establishment of the Alliance and will oversee the group's

national efforts. The Alliance is made up of universities designated as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI), and other four-year hospitality universities. Organizations represented in the DE&I Alliance Council include: Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Hilton, Marriott International, Bacardi North America, Bloomin' Brands, JLL, CBRE, Castell Project, NABHOOD, AHLA Foundation, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, and The Advanced Leadership Institute. These organizations have pledged their support and commitment to the Alliance.

Barker, the nation's first endowed DE&I professor of hospitality, is building the groundwork to support and encourage Black and Hispanic students towards executive leadership and professorships in hospitality, which is part of the school's ongoing commitment to addressing inequalities in the hospitality industry.

"In order to effect positive change and create a level playing field for our future hospitality leaders, it is crucial that we address this ongoing challenge to leadership potential in the hospitality industry with intentionality and purpose by reaching out to those students with less access to financial, educational and social resources,"

said Michael Cheng, dean of FIU's Chaplin School.

The Alliance announcement comes as the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) meet Aug. 3 – 6 in Washington D.C. One of the areas the conference will focus on is the enrollment decline in four-year hospitality programs, which have been trending down over the last five years, with Black and Hispanic enrollments at disproportionately lower rates. Income disparities, lack of upward mobility, and lack of promotions are contributing factors leading to Black and Hispanic students electing not to pursue a hospitality education and careers. These factors further compound existing challenges these students face, such as lack of institutional commitment, academic preparedness, role models, and financial aid.

The Alliance and its council members invite ICHRIE members, other higher-learning institution academics, industry professionals, and hospitality association leaders to join.

To learn more about the Alliance, please visit the AHED alliance website for more details. For more information about Florida International University's Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, visit <http://hospitality.fiu.edu>.



The Drs. Webley Are Ready To Serve South Florida



L. to R: Dr. Nicolas Charles Webley and his wife Dr. Kristin Evonne Webley. (Contributed image)

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Nicolas Charles Webley and his wife Dr. Kristin Evonne Webley. On August 6, 2022, the Drs. Webley both received their Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees from the University of South Florida.

Nicolas and Kristin spent the past three years in the USF DPT program developing knowledge and hands on skills pertaining to their profession. They both completed and presented capstone projects as a part of their senior year curriculum, as well as in services during their clinical rotations.

Nicolas, the son of Caribbean Today Publisher, Peter Webley, completed three clinical rotations with experience in aquatic therapy, outpatient orthopedics, and acute

care at Advent Health Tampa including: CVICU, ICU, and a variety of other patient diagnoses.

Kristin, Mr. Webley's daughter-in-law, completed her rotations in outpatient orthopedics, the school system with a focus on developmentally delayed children, and acute care at Moffitt Cancer Center, the nation's top cancer specialty hospital.

The Drs. Webley are both passionate about working with patients to regain function and independence, and to prevent future musculoskeletal conditions and improve overall quality of life. They have experience working with ages across the lifespan, varying conditions and complexities, and a spectrum of activity levels.



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Consul General Oliver Mair Radiates A Passion For Jamaica

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Three-and-a-half years into his role as Jamaica's Consul General, (CG), to Miami, Oliver Mair still feels: "This job for me, has been almost a perfect fit."

"I love the variety," he told Caribbean Today recently. "As Consul General you get involved in everything. You are at all the events. We're bringing NDC to South Florida at the end of September with the Louise Bennett Heritage Council. You get to honor people, like for example Jimmy Cliff at our Independence Gala. You get to help the vulnerable, the ones who don't have a voice. That's perhaps the area I am most excited about."

He added: "People have access to resources that they think they didn't have access to. I spend time with persons who have never spoken with a Consul General, and just hear from them. I try to give voice to the voiceless as best as I can."

ACCESSIBLE

Mair is energetic, accessible, and passionate. Reaching out to the Jamaican diaspora, he takes his responsibility for the Southern United States seriously, which covers 13 states including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, plus the Bahamas and Cayman Islands.

He explained that whatever impacts Jamaica or Jamaicans in the region of the southern United States is his focus - any difficulty that needs attention by the government.

In a conversation with Caribbean Today, the CG pointed out: "We have had court cases that we've facilitated at the consulate..."

Incarcerated Jamaicans, if they feel their human rights are being violated, they can reach out to us. We have had all sorts of scenarios you can think about, persons who need some kind of support from our 16-member team."

For example, during the height of the pandemic, Mair and his team kicked into high gear when approximately 2,500 Jamaicans were stuck in Florida when the US/Jamaica borders closed. The Consulate, working with partners, were able to find housing for those whose hotel stays ended, offer medical support, and basic necessities such as food and transportation.

It was a huge accomplishment for the team, the Consul General noted, stressing without his staff none of the achievements would have been possible.

Another achievement to celebrate is the annual Jamaica Hi-5K walk/run initiated by the consulate to raise funds for Jamaican health clinics in desperate need of resources.

Inspired by the island's Ministry of Health's Adopt-A-Clinic initiative, the 3rd annual event drew the support of more than 1,000 persons from the Jamaican diaspora, and friends, across 5 cities simultaneously throughout the US. The program also features a weekly exercise regimen facilitated by former Jamaican High School track star Daniel England that's free to the community.

"It's about the community pulling together and working together in unison and providing something tangible back," said a proud Mair.

COMMUNITY

Indeed, working with the community has always been key to the success of any Consular effort.

"Though it's been a challenge



Consul General Oliver Mair

budget-wise, because the government is always strapped and we don't necessarily have a budget per se to do what we do, the community has rallied with us," CG Mair said. "I support them, and they support me. And when I say support me, they support Jamaica in whatever initiatives we do here. That I would say is a challenge that we continue to overcome with the support of the community."

In fact, Oliver Mair's working adult life seems to have been community focused. A varied path in the private sector, he began his career with in-flight service for Air Jamaica eventually becoming regional marketing manager, reaching out to the diaspora as the airline expanded its European and Caribbean routes. His 9 years at Jamaica Broilers, also in sales and marketing, took him out of the office to connect with farmers and other ordinary Jamaicans going about their daily lives. All of this, he said, grounded him in the community celebrating their peaks and valleys. He was also an entrepreneur supplying agricultural produce to hotels in Jamaica.

And, of course, rounding out the man, many know him as a performer/entertainer. Yes, Mair has had his own production company, 'Laff It Off,' which

produced successful theatre plays. His creativity is natural, it comes easily for him, built up in his blood from his first foray into acting and performance as a boy at Vaz Preparatory School in Jamaica.

"It has been in my blood from day one... I love singing, I love entertaining, I love people feeling good about themselves and having a positive outlook on life," he disclosed. "Every time I'm doing something, if I'm giving a message, I try and bring in a little reggae music. I'm proud of my Jamaican culture."

And that he is! Mair is adamant about marketing Jamaica in a positive way, and although there are challenges the country is tackling, he advocates working together to build up Jamaica in order to jump the hurdles.

REALITY

"Whatever we focus on becomes our reality," he advised. "And I've found that there are certain people that regardless of the achievements that take place, will always find something negative to focus on. I'm the opposite! Let's focus on the wins that we have as a country and use that to drive us because negative energy tends not to propel people forward at all."

He added: "Our debt to GDP has been reducing from 149 percent to 96 percent. When we look at how our debt has held us back as a country for many years, we finally have a situation where we know that we're moving in the right direction."

The CG explained while many are focusing on crime, foreign investors are looking at Jamaica as the perfect place to invest. He noted the incredible performance of the Jamaica Stock Exchange in recent years, in which he himself invests.

Mair acknowledges that crime, or more specifically

homicides, is a reality in Jamaica. But he said "we all have a role to play." His was volunteering for two years with the Tower Street Correctional Institution, working with inmates prior to taking on his role as CG to Miami.

"So, my message to everybody is we all have a role to play because a lot of what needs to be done is intervention before these kids go the wrong path," the CG said. "All of us can play a role in terms of mentorship, in terms of our own family life. We have to make sure that the people in our own family or in the community are getting the support they need."

The Consul General's goal looking forward? Driving more investments in Jamaica, deepening the relationship with the diaspora, driving support for his homeland.

"As a people, we have so much potential. I think we have been blessed in a very special way by God, as a people," Mair said. "And I think sometimes we need to just step back and have more gratitude. I know times are tough. But if all of us, regardless of our walk in life, look at our individual circumstance and where we are, we have a lot to be thankful for."



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Safeguarding Rights From Authoritarian Governments

BY SIR RONALD SANDERS

The rights of persons everywhere in the world have to be protected from authoritarian governments that suffocate them.

In the English-speaking Caribbean countries - 13 of which are the core nations of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) - there is an outstanding tradition of respect for human, political and civil rights.

Establishing individual rights, including freedom of speech, freedom of the media, the right to organize trade unions and political parties, and to practice religious faith, were hard won. The people of these 13 countries won these freedoms by overcoming the shackles of slavery and indentured labor, colonial rule, expatriate control of economies, and exploitation.

Today, the 12 independent English-speaking countries of the



The rights of persons everywhere in the world have to be protected from authoritarian governments that suffocate them. (Associated Press image)

Caribbean can, for the most part, boast of a record of upholding and respecting rights.

Respect for rights is obvious when a political party loses office in a general election. Power is handed over peacefully and orderly to the political party that

wins the election through the ballot box. This was obvious recently in Grenada, where a party that had held office for decades under the leadership of the longest-serving head of government, accepted the decision of the electorate and handed over

the reins of government.

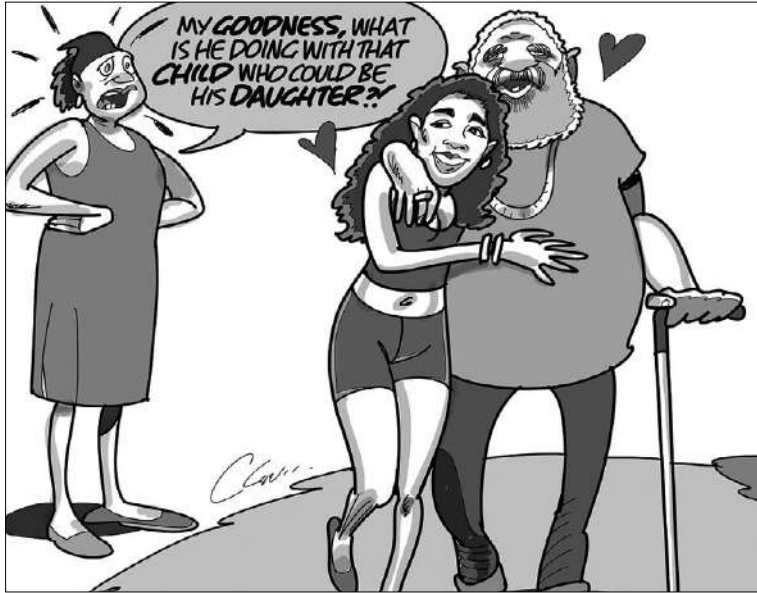
Respect for rights also includes regard for criticism expressed in the media, and tolerance of social media where both supportive and opposing opinions and views are openly stated.

The benefit of respect and maintenance of these rights is that these 13 countries enjoy democratic freedoms in which the talents of individuals and groups can thrive without fear of repression. In large measure, it is the enjoyment of these rights that allows these small countries to prosper despite the economic constraints of size and the effects of natural disasters.

The protection of these rights is, therefore, important. Championing them abroad is as crucial as defending them at home. When rights are violated and abused anywhere, threats are posed to them everywhere.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A)

Know Your Age



Very few things are more ridiculous than seeing someone who doesn't know their age. In many cases it's women, who simply refuse to let go of their long-lost youth and still cling to the fading fabric of what used to be a vibrant and colourful garment.

We have a term for those ladies: "Motha young gyal," which refers to a woman who is way past her prime but still primes herself in the accoutrements and garments of the young.



TONY ROBINSON

"My word, look at granny trying to look like teenager in her shorts." Still, there are some older women who still look great, and dress fabulously. They do not wear clothes that only a teenager should wear, but adorn themselves elegantly, fashionably and sartorially sophisticated.

On the flip side, there are some young women who dress as if they shop at the geriatric discount bargain basement store. They are barely in their twenties, but dress as if they are ancient dowagers, country school marms, church sisters.

That's so infrequent though that I won't even dwell on it. What's even more egregious is when they are even younger and do not dress or act their age. This is usually facilitated by mothers who attempt to make their daughters look more mature than they really are. They dress up the little three-year-old girl in clothes fit for someone much older, and apply make-up, jewelry and all sorts of fandangles.

Men do it too, but somehow if the man has a slim body he can pull it off and get away with it. A man of seventy can still cut a dash in sports shorts, tight polo shirt and track shoes. Of course, if he's paunchy or big and fat, he'll look ridiculous.

Where he certainly doesn't know his age is when he adorns himself with a much younger woman who is more than a generation removed from

him. This is so obvious in its implementation that people can't help but notice. "My goodness, what is he doing with that child who could be his daughter?"

Some may reply: "To tell the truth, I really feel funny when we go out, as I know that there's a huge age difference but she makes me feel young and alive." But as we all know, these age ridiculous relationships almost always end up badly, with the older person being the aggrieved party. Here's a prime example of a friend of mine not knowing his age. As per usual, and fitting into the age-old cliché, he was putting a young girl through university and even had her ensconced in an upscale apartment. One night he arrived there unannounced, only to find another man, who knew his age, in warm embrace with the young lady.

As he related his tale of woe to me, with a straight face I asked him: "I guess that encounter was certainly not suitable for your age?" He failed to see the humor of my jibe, but lamented and cursed how the girl was ungrateful and wicked.

People must remain in their own time zone. You cannot expect to be born in the 1960s and running up and down with a partner whose parents are your age. Mathematically, logically, emotionally, physically, it just does not compute.

And yet, so many men still insist on not knowing their age when it comes to squiring much younger women. As for the women who try to romance young boys who are the same age as their sons, forget about it.

So all you aged men, when it comes to young women who are not age suitable, heed the words of Shakespeare: "A man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age."

What's the point of dining on young fresh steak, if you have no teeth to chew it with?" Know your age!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com



The USCIS' Ongoing Backlog And The Ombudsman Report

One of my very good friends from Jamaica has so far spent thousands of dollars in attorney and U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, (USCIS), fees to process her permanent residency application, but remains in limbo, caught up in the agency's backlog.

This means that she is constantly doing the limbo with a mere work permit on keeping her job and her driver's license, which she has to pay hundreds to renew every couple of months because of the work permit renewal backlog as well.

Sadly, she is not alone but shares the pain of 13 million plus immigrants awaiting immigration benefit requests currently. It is a dance that is all too familiar for immigrants. When has the USCIS not had a backlog?

On July 7th, the USCIS' Ombudsman office issued its 2022 report addressing the dilemma and shockingly noted that while the "USCIS has always had its share



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

of backlog issues," there has been "none so severe in recent memory as the ones it currently confronts." The report added that "these lengthy processing times and the high number of adjudicated cases, has been largely created out of the pandemic's unprecedented effect on its ability to operate, insufficient revenue since the agency is funded by immigrant fees, and employee attrition." Sadly these are not just "cases" but real lives; and it is causing harm to applicants and petitioners daily, especially for those without their renewed Employment Authorization documents, who have been let go in some instances. The Ombudsman is correct in stating that: "The USCIS' commitment to mitigating its backlogs of cases, must be matched with a full commitment to eradicating the worst of these pain points for applicants and petitioners so that they may continue to work, travel, obtain evidence of status, and be able to access expedited processing, when eligible, in a meaningful and consistent way."

And the Ombudsman's Office had more recommendations for USCIS, including to:

1: Build on existing automatic

extension periods to allow for uninterrupted work authorization while waiting for it to adjudicate a renewal EAD application.

2: Provide better options for nonimmigrant spouses to renew their employment authorization.

3: Allow applicants to file for renewal EADs earlier and issue renewal EADs with validity periods that begin when the original EAD expires.

4: Continue to expedite EAD renewals for workers in certain occupations in the national interest.

5: Further explore and augment the use of technology, including online filing and machine learning, to automate EAD processing.

6: Implement new regulations that provide more flexibility for USCIS and approved workers during periods of backlogs or long processing delays.

7: Increase flexibility in the Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, process; and

8: Eliminate the need for a separate EAD application when filing for certain benefits.

The Ombudsman also suggests: "USCIS should: establish a centralized process for expedite

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A)

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CARICOM Heads: Still In Slow Motion

BY ELIZABETH MORGAN

“The reality is, that we have everything to support each other in the economy, single market, movement of goods and persons, and connectivity. But the processes to facilitate this are going very slowly. Despite progress in some areas of regional cooperation, we are still far from achieving the stated goals.” President Chan Santokhi, Suriname, Chair of CARICOM

Reviewing the Communiqué of the 43rd CARICOM Heads of Government Conference, held in Suriname, July 3-5, did not leave me feeling inspired. As CARICOM Chairman, President Chan Santokhi of Suriname, said in his statement at the opening ceremony, the region is still too far from achieving its stated goals.

My first surprise was that not more countries had signed the Protocol to Amend the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy to Allow for Enhanced Cooperation among member states and to Address Related Issues (Enhanced Cooperation Protocol).

At this meeting, it was ratified by Barbados and signed by St. Lucia. At the Inter-Sessional Heads Meeting in Belize in March, four countries, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and Grenada, had signed. Considering that Heads at the 42nd Session in Antigua and Barbuda, had agreed to the St. John's Declaration on Rededication to CSME Implementation, I would have expected more countries to have signed.

In the discussions on the CSME, it was evident that little progress had been made on the free movement of workers, specifically in the new categories which had been agreed. For these categories, household

domestics, agricultural workers and private security officers, Heads were just now agreeing on definitions and qualifications. Heads of Government were again expressing disappointment at the slow pace of implementation of CSME and committing to take immediate steps to make progress.

On advancing the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems agenda, there seems to be more progress with a majority of Member States developing and submitting national targets to meet the 25 per cent reduction in regional food export bill by 2025.

The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) is to conclude, by the end of July, various initiatives and programmes, aimed at the removal of non-tariff barriers to intra-regional trade. The CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) is to accelerate implementation of various agricultural investment projects. It seems that 19 potential investment opportunities for displacing extra-regional agri-food imports have been identified.

Heads endorsed the Action Plan and Outcome Statement of the CARICOM Agri-Investment Forum and Expo held in Guyana from 19-21 May 2022. They also welcomed the Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the establishment of a Regional Youth in Agriculture Advisory Mechanism ensuring youth participation and inclusion is accounted for in all efforts towards achieving the 25 per cent/2025 goal. Another Agri-Investment Forum is to be held in Trinidad and Tobago from 19-21 August 2022.

There is to be continuing discussions on an enhanced transportation system, which is a critically important matter in the region for movement of people and goods. Working Groups have been established to provide project oversight, which include

establishing a traditional ferry and fast ferry service for passengers and cargo for the region. Studies for ferry services, it seems, have been ongoing for a while. Air transport needs urgent attention.

On energy security, more studies and proposals were on the table as Heads considered and approved a paper on Economic Development and Energy Transition and Climate Change as the region's overarching strategy in advancing energy security.

They will pursue energy diversification into LNG and fertiliser for agriculture, and will develop the renewable energy sector through building infrastructure for regional power generation. They will also be engaging with the USA to enable resumption of their bilateral relationship with Venezuela through Petrocaribe.

The region will also begin to



CARICOM Chairman and Suriname President, Chan Santokhi, addressing the CARICOM Heads meeting. (CMC Image)

focus on developing an industrial policy strategy. Suriname is now the Head responsible for industrial policy, which is part of the Revised Treaty (Policies for Sectoral Development) requiring implementation.

Chairman Santokhi told the conference that he intended to advance the contours of a Caribbean Industrial Policy during his chairmanship.

Among other agenda items, the Heads also considered climate change, security and community governance, which aims to facilitate more effective decision-making and implementation of the Community agenda.

After going through the communiqué, while there are positives, I was still left wondering when we will actually see concrete deliverables, moving from studies, papers, working groups, and proposals, to actual completed actions.

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of CARICOM will start at the 34th Inter-Sessional Meeting of Heads scheduled for the Bahamas in February 2023. Will we see even one or two deliverables in 2023, demonstrating a commitment to implementation and moving CARICOM beyond a talk shop?

The Chairman, during his address, made some interesting proposals and called for action now. How will our leaders respond in the next six months? In this time of crises, our leaders need to demonstrate their commitment to regional integration.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Elizabeth Morgan, who writes for CMC, is a specialist in international trade policy and international politics.



Safeguarding Rights From Authoritarian Governments

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A)

It is in this connection that CARICOM countries have to be concerned about human, political, and civil rights in neighboring states and in the wider world. Disregard for rights by governments can spread like a pandemic if it is not stopped.

The current situation in Nicaragua should be a matter of grave concern. In November 2021, Daniel Ortega was re-elected as President in a process that trampled on rights. Almost 40 opposition persons were imprisoned, including seven potential presidential candidates; and several political parties were blocked from participation in the election. Additionally, independent media were stifled, journalists were jailed, and many non-governmental organizations were hounded into oblivion. Peaceful demonstrations were ruthlessly broken-up, causing hundreds of deaths.

At the time of the November 2021 election, Ortega had been in power for 15 years since 2006. During that time, he became as autocratic as the Somoza family whom he had fought against four decades ago as head of the Sandinistas.

After the election, the restriction and suppression of rights continued, including by the harassment and imprisonment of some of the men and women who had fought with him to free Nicaragua from the tyranny of the Somoza dynasty. Many of them suffered atrociously in prison, denied adequate food

and medicines. Charges were trumped up against them but their real crime in Ortega's eyes was their expressed dissent to his government's policies.

The current judicial system is corrupt and totally controlled by Ortega, incapable of delivering justice. The legislature is also a sham, comprised mainly of members of his own party, opposition parties having been disqualified or eliminated.

In March 2022, this led to open condemnation by his Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Arturo McFields. During a live webcast of a Permanent Council meeting, McFields described the Ortega government as a "dictatorship", which, he said, is stifling civil and political freedoms in Nicaragua.

The situation in Nicaragua has steadily worsened since then. For example, the number of political prisoners has increased from 177 in March to 190 at the end of June. Additionally, on June 29, the government closed 101 civic and charity groups, including the local branch of the Missionaries of Charity established by Mother Teresa. This brought the number of forced closures of non-governmental organizations over the last four years to 758. Ortega's government claims that these nongovernmental groups were working on behalf of foreign interests to destabilize his government. Even if many of them were funded by foreign sources, the accusation that all 758 were working to destabilize his government rises to a high

level of paranoia and strains credibility.

On July 6, the Nuns, from Mother Theresa's missionary, which had been operating for 34 years as a children's center and a home for girls and a facility for the elderly, were driven to the border with Costa Rica and ordered out of the country.

On July 4, four months before scheduled municipal elections, the riot police seized the city halls of five municipalities that had been in the hands of an opposition party, guaranteeing that Ortega's party would win what will now be sham elections.

All this has had a deleterious effect on Nicaragua. Tens of thousands of its people have fled across the borders to Costa Rica and Panama. Many more thousands have trekked through Mexico to the border with the United States, their lives in turmoil; their future uncertain. The prospects for Nicaragua dim every day, epitomizing why human, political and civil rights are imperatives and why freedom-loving persons must safeguard them – everywhere.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sir Ronald Sanders is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organisation of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, and Massey College in the University of Toronto.

- CMC



The USCIS' Ongoing Backlog And The Ombudsman Report

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A)

requests; create a new form for submitting expedite requests; develop standardized guidance about the requirements and process; and engage in robust data collection to maintain accountability" to make the expedite process more efficient. These are all very valid recommendations and needed. But what the Ombudsman's report fails to address is that approximately 97 percent of the USCIS's budget is funded by the filing fees it collects from USCIS' fee-paying customers.

And most importantly, completion rates are based on the number of hours it takes to fully process a specific application. This means

that the more time spent deciding a request, the higher the fee the agency can charge to recover the cost of processing it. So why would the agency want to process applications faster when it can charge more for longer processing and keep itself funded? It is time the Joe Biden administration also recommends funding the agency with congressional appropriations instead of application fees. The model is failing and USCIS has delivered a 1 star in service on a scale of 1-10, in exchange for the thousands in fees it collects per applicant.

The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com – The Black Immigrant Daily News.



ELECTION FEVER



FLORIDA VOTES 2022
Know Before You Vote

Caribbean  day

ELECTION FEVER 2022

Know Before You Vote



Florida's Primary Elections conclude on August 23rd and for the first time in an election that spreads across the state, it's no longer legal to drop your ballot off at an unattended ballot box.

To vote in this and any primary election, remember you must be registered with that political party affiliation – that is, be either a registered Democrat or Republican. Independents or no party affiliation voters cannot vote in a partisan primary.

If you are not sure you are registered to vote, check your Florida voter registration at registration.elections.myflorida.com/
Check Voter Status.

Early Voting started on

August 8th and will run to August 21, 2022.

Vote at your precinct on Election Day - August 23, 2022.

Vote by mail

Voters can obtain a mail-in ballot through their county's Supervisors of Elections offices. The deadlines to obtain a ballot are Aug. 13 (for the primary election) and Oct. 29 (for the general election).

Early voting

Voters will have an eight-day window where they can cast their ballots at their local polling places ahead of the primary and general elections:

- Primary election: Aug. 13-20
- Miami-Dade County early voting: Monday, Aug. 8

through Sunday, Aug. 21
Broward County early voting:
• Saturday, Aug. 14 through Sunday, Aug. 21

STATEWIDE RACES ON THE BALLOT Governor

There will be a Democratic primary between Charlie Crist, Cadance Daniel, Nicole "Nikki" Fried and Robert Willis. The winner will face Republican incumbent Ron DeSantis in the general election. Others on the general election ballot will be Libertarian Hector Roos, and two no party affiliation candidates — Carmen Jackie Gimenez and Jodi Gregory Jeloudov. There also are three official write-in candidates whose names will not appear on the ballot — Piotr Blass, Kyle Gibson and James Thompson.

Attorney General

There will be a Democratic primary between Aramis Ayala, Jim Lewis and Daniel Uhlfelder. The winner will face Republican incumbent Ashley Moody in the general election.

Commissioner Of Agriculture And Consumer Services

There will be a Democratic primary between Naomi Esther Blemur, J.R. Gaillot and Ryan Morales. There will be a Republican primary

between James Shaw and Wilton Simpson. Fried, the incumbent, is not seeking re-election and instead is running in the Democratic primary for governor.

Chief Financial Officer:

Incumbent Republican Jimmy Patronis of Panama City is looking to be re-elected against Democrat Adam Hattersley of Tampa.

U.S. Senate

There will be a Democratic primary between Ricardo De La Fuente, Val Demings, Brian Rush and William Sanchez.

The winner will face Republican incumbent Marco Rubio in the general election. Others on the general election ballot will be Libertarian Dennis Misigoy, and two no party affiliation candidates - Steven Grant and Tuan Nguyen. There are also four official write-in candidates -Uloma Uma Ekpete, Edward Gray, Howard Knepper and Moses Quiles.

Amendments

There are three Constitutional amendments on the statewide ballot this year:

Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission

This would abolish the Constitution Revision

Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals and is scheduled to next convene in 2037, as a way to submit proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution.

Limitation on Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes

This would prohibit the consideration of any change or improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property's resistance to flood damage in determining the assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.

Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce

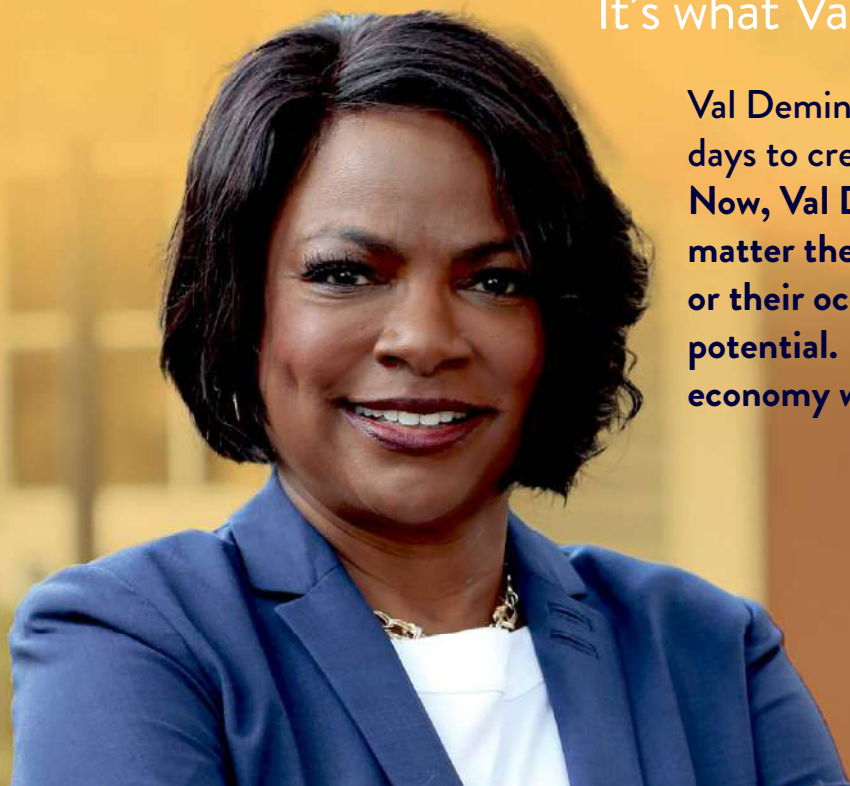
This amendment would grant an additional homestead tax exemption for non-school levies of up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members.



OPPORTUNITY

It's what Val Demings is working to provide every American.

Val Demings watched her father, a janitor, and mother, a maid, work long days to create opportunities for their children to live the American Dream. Now, Val Demings is on a mission to make sure that every Floridian — no matter the color of their skin, their last name, their religion, their gender, or their occupation — will have the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential. Let's work together to hold America to its promise and make the economy work for every American.



To learn more about Chief Demings, visit:

- www.valdemings.com
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- info@valdemings.com



Let's win this together.

PAID FOR BY VAL DEMINGS FOR U.S. SENATE

ELECTION FEVER 2022

THE HOTTEST RACE IN TOWN - Florida 20th District Race Heats Up

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Just seven months ago, Haitian American Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick made history with a win by five votes in a crowded Democratic Primary, and a whopping 59 percent of the votes over Republican Jason Mariner. The win made her the first elected Haitian American congressmember from Florida and she was sworn into office as congressmember for Florida's 20th district - a seat left vacant by the death of Congressman Alcee Hastings.

But on August 23, 2022, Congressmember Cherfilus-McCormick will again face Democratic opponents in the Primary, vying for the same seat. Her rival is once again former Broward County Mayor and Commissioner, Jamaican immigrant Dale Holness while Florida House of Representatives member, Anika Omphroy, is the new challenger.

All three candidates have priorities for the district, but it will be up voters to determine who will win.

"I'm the only one that has served in that capacity, served successfully, been able to do things that this district has never seen. So, it's not a question of if I can perform, it's a question of if we're moving forward. I think the comparison is clear," Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick told Caribbean Today.

Having received the Congressional Thomas Paine Award for her advocacy work during her first quarter in office, Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick noted that she and her team have been able to draw down funds for the district for housing, a priority issue in her campaign. She also brought in Marcia Fudge, Secretary of HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to help stem the magnitude of the housing issues.

And, to help tackle the poverty level in the district, the Congresswoman is proud of her Peoples Prosperity Plan legislation which she has put into action.

"That's legislation that gives families who make less than \$75,000, a thousand dollars a year as we're in the economic downturn," she explained. "While we're waiting to debate that, because usually it takes up to a year to pass a bill, we have already allocated \$3.2 million to Catholic Charities and that's going to be fiscal year 2023. They will be giving \$1000 stipends, \$500 stipend to families in need for housing issues, rent, utilities."

"So that makes me proud that we actually are doing what we said we were going to do," Cherfilus-McCormick added. "And in the interim while



Congressmember Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick

we're waiting, we have things allocated."

She said she is not convinced that Holness understands the legislative process or how federal policies are put into place.

"Now that I am in congress, I can tell you what the job is. The job really is to understand the legality, we are legislators," the congresswoman explained.

"And I've been able to move forward quickly because not only do I understand the law, but the practical implementation of how you move forward, and how policies go forward, and how funding actually works."

But Holness, who has been slapped with a defamation suit by the congressmember, disagrees.

"That proposal would be a trillion dollars out of the US Treasury," Holness told Caribbean Today. "There are other means that we can utilize to help create prosperity and help lift people up other than a gimmick."

He noted that should he be elected, his first proposal in Washington "will be to get money into these poor communities like we did in Broward County identifying the highest poverty, highest unemployment zip codes. We want to do that throughout this region throughout this district and get funding from the federal government."

THE DEFAMATION LAWSUIT

On the defamation lawsuit based on distributed campaign text messages allegedly accusing the congressmember of embezzling funds that gave her the win in 2021, the congressmember noted that Holness has been putting out lies on her "every single week."

"When he said that I embezzled, which is a criminal action, that should be prosecuted, that's the highest level of libel," she told CT. "We're spending millions of dollars having to undo that... We're suing him for that because we're actually suffering damage."

Holness retorted: "I won't deny that my team sent the text but I didn't see the text before it went out... It did not reference



Challenger Dale Holness.

her or call her name in a specific way."

He added: "First of all, when a lawsuit is filed part of the process that's required is that the party that's being sued gets served. Well, we have not yet been served. It's hard for you to defend a lawsuit that hasn't been served. So, it appears to be a publicity stunt more than anything else."

The Congresswoman was quick to point out that the lawsuit is indeed legitimate.

"This has nothing to do with the election. It is not a political move. You can't do illegal things and think that we're going to bear the brunt," she insisted.

But, in spite of a defamation suit hanging over him, Holness is confident he can win the seat that he lost by a mere 5 votes in the 2021 Democratic Primary race.

GRASSROOTS

"We brought in some additional people (with) more technical skills," Holness explained. "In fact, I brought in a wonderful person who is now my finance director, Miss Yolanda Brown. She's the former CFO for the state of Florida Democratic Party. She has a depth of education and information on how the political process works from the financing end. So, she's a key component."

The former Broward County mayor added that he is going back to grassroots political tools to reach the majority of the Democratic constituents in the district who actually vote.

"We're going to be doing more texting, more mailing than we did before," he added. "The best way to win an election is to go directly to the voters. And how you get to the actual voters in the most direct manner is to knock on their doors."

So, exactly what is Holness' message?

"The number one priority for this district is to help the people in the district that are poor," he explained. "We have the highest poverty rate of any district in the state of Florida. One in five persons in the district live in poverty, about 20% of the people in the district.



Challenger Florida House of Representatives member, Anika Omphroy.

And it's a mostly black district. So, you gotta have someone who will carry a strong voice for the black community, someone who has lived experience, of coming from practically nothing like I have, from the hills of Jamaica as an immigrant to this country."

OMPHROY

Omphroy is the newcomer in the race. Proudly celebrating her Jamaican and Haitian heritage, Florida Representative Anika Omphroy also has a clear message, focusing on what she deems a housing crisis.

"The priorities I see for my constituents start off with housing," Omphroy stressed. "You know, when you're a kid you are taught that you need water, you need food, and you need shelter. We are failing people in a major way by not making sure there's adequate shelter."

She added that the state of Florida needs 500,000 units rapidly. Closer to 1.5 million units in the long term. Specifically, District 20 must build 100,000 single-family and 40,000 multi-family housing units by 2024 and find ways of getting funding to homeowners to rehabilitate their ageing housing stock.

"I just don't think that we are doing adequate jobs in

regard to attainable housing," Omphroy told CT. "We are rapidly seeing the deterioration, if not the complete decimation, of our middle class. They can't manage to carry the burden anymore because the cost is too high."

So critical is the need for housing that Omphroy's plan of attack as Congresswoman if elected will be immediate.

"I have to be able to sit down with my colleagues in Congress and express to them the need to call for a housing crisis," she said. "That will allow the President to then bypass a lot of things and then we can get HUD to do the rapid revamping of housing that we need."

WHO WILL WIN?

It will come down to who can do the work and who has the experience to get things done.

"I'm the only one that has served in that capacity, served successfully, been able to do things that this district has never seen," Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick declared. "So, it's not a question of if I can perform, it's a question of if we're moving forward. I think the comparison is clear."

"A lifetime of experience in public service dedicated to changing the trajectory of communities and the lives of people to help lift up people and to make a difference. Eighteen years as an elected public servant in South Florida, I've delivered for the people," added Holness.

"I am experienced, proven, fearless. I have no problem with opposing my Democratic colleagues when it matters, and I have no problem with standing up to my Republican colleagues when it matters," Omphroy proclaimed.




Philippe Bien Aime

FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

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ELECTION FEVER 2022

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will be presenting a proclamation celebrating Jamaica's 60th Year of Independence.

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Charlie Crist Goes After The Black, Caribbean Vote

BY JODI YONDER

The opening of the Miami-Dade campaign office for Charlie Crist was welcomed with cheers. It's been a while since a gubernatorial candidate has opened headquarters anywhere. The Miami Springs office is one of three around the state that was packed with supporters, excited about the campaign to beat Governor Ron DeSantis.

The former governor is living up to his reputation as a campaign master, doing up to five counties or city stops in a few days, including Black and Caribbean businesses, barbershops, grocery stores, organizations, or advocacy groups.

"He might be the last nice guy left in politics," Gadsden County Commissioner Brenda Holt, a powerhouse in Florida's only predominantly Black County, commented.

Holt says the community



Gubernatorial hopeful Charlie Crist joins Tangela Sears at the Parents of Murdered Children dinner in Miami. Sears is the founder of the Florida organization. Her son was killed in Tallahassee.

wants the former governor to bring equality to the equation in Florida.

"I'm a former schoolteacher and I'm concerned that we can't tell the truth about Black history," she told Caribbean Today. "Black history is American history. Even the courts say we're being targeted. The governor has eliminated a woman's right to choose, Al Lawson's congressional district, and it's harder to vote. We died of COVID at a higher rate than anybody else and we were ignored."

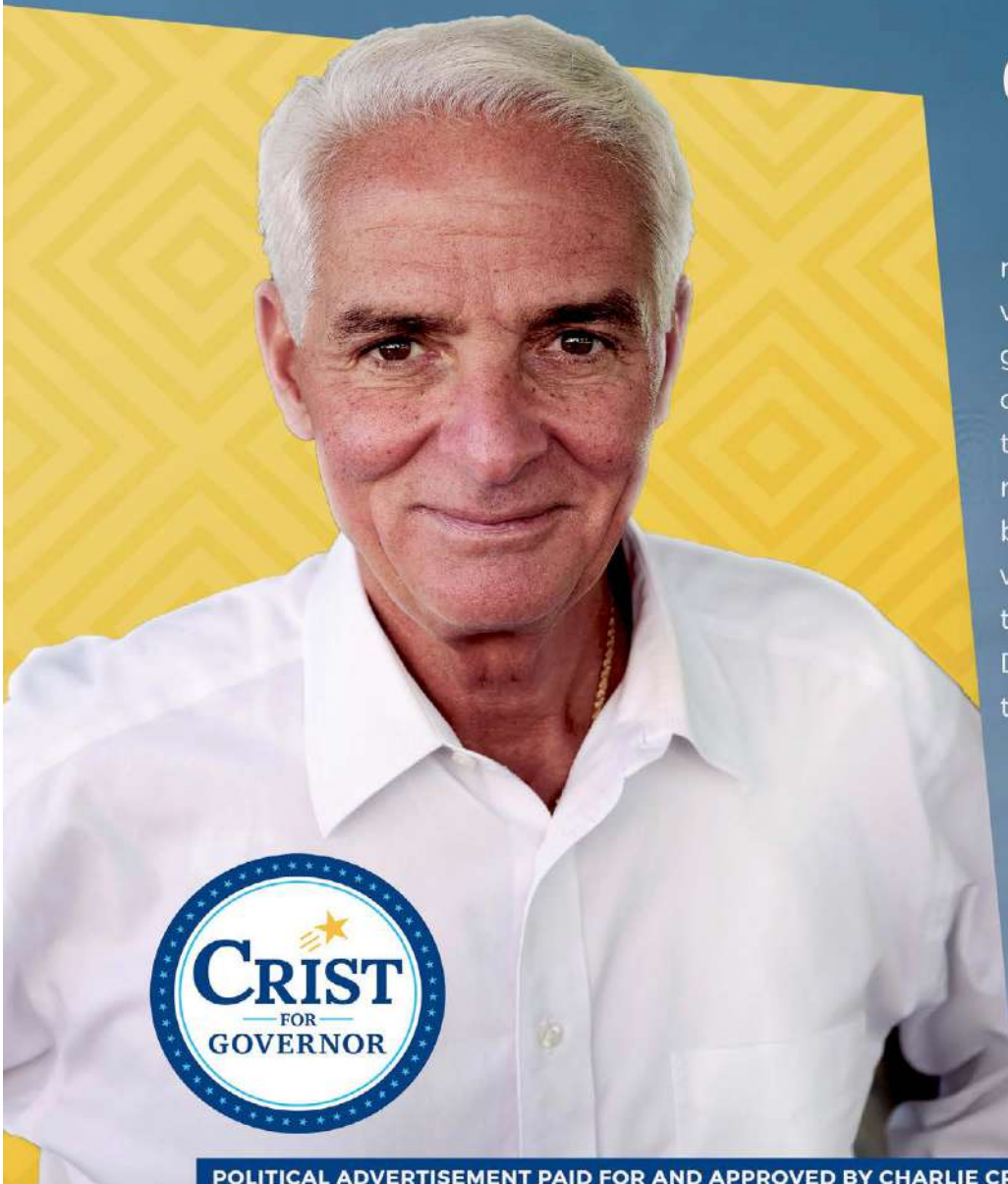
In January Holt adorned the county courthouse lawn with more 200 red, white, and blue flags memorializing the Gadsden County citizens who succumbed to COVID-19. Charlie Crist joined her. Being kind doesn't cost anything, but being cruel does, according to Crist. "I'm campaigning hard to let people know I believe in a Florida for all," he said. "I also know we've got to beat this guy. His administration has been a nightmare. He's a bully and just a bad guy. All people need to be treated with respect and decency."

While DeSantis' controversial mandates are particularly disturbing to Blacks, apparently other Floridians are weary of the dictates according to respected Republican pollster Tony Fabrizio. His recent poll has Crist leading DeSantis by a point, and another GOP poll has Crist ahead by 2 points.

Crist has an extraordinary name recognition of 92% and high positive numbers. That enviable status does not stop him from reaching out to all Floridians in what many say is in a sharp contrast to the incumbent.



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Let's stop the **MADNESS OF DESANTIS.**

charliecrist.com/issues



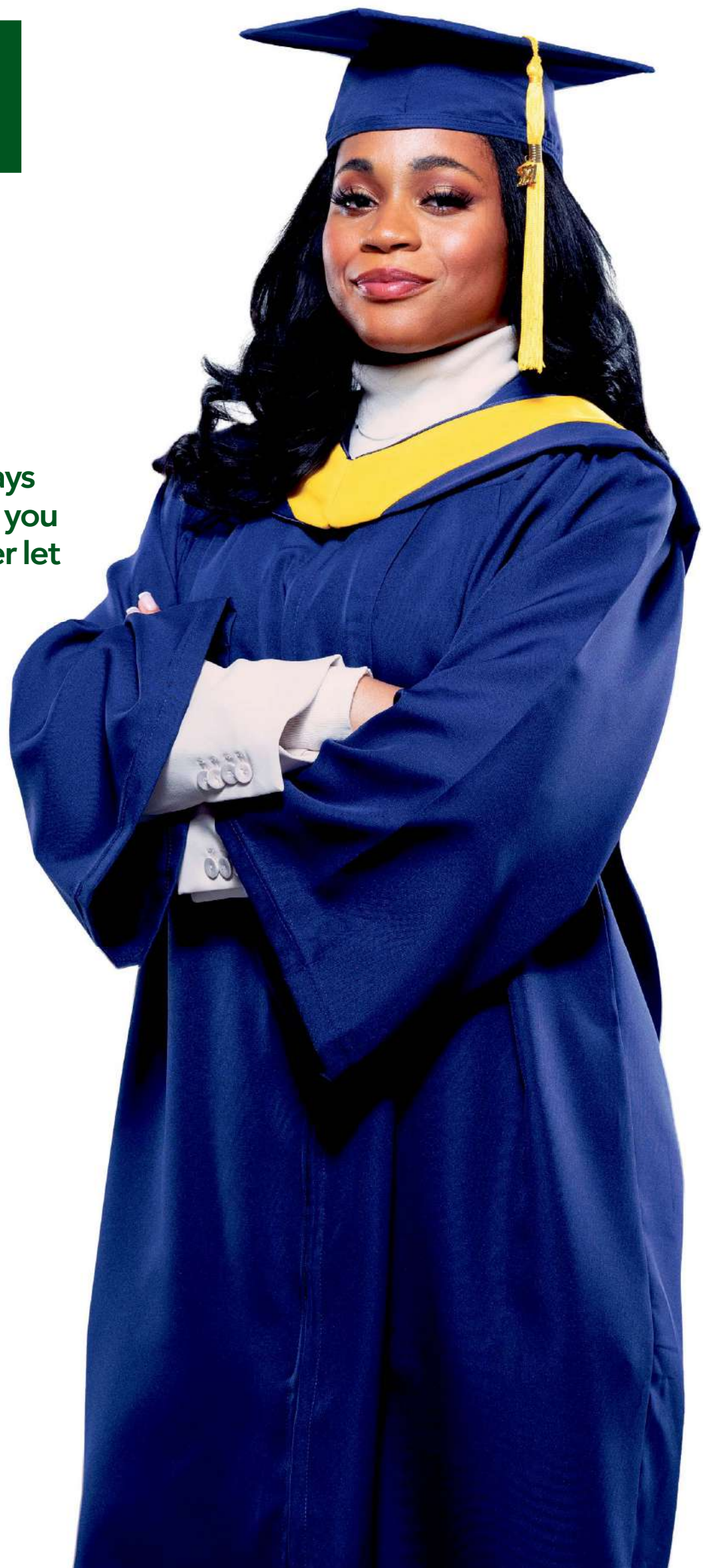
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Danielle Maner
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ELECTION FEVER 2022

Val Demings Rallies Florida Democrats

BY SHEILA JAMES

The contrast was striking. Florida Republicans and Democrats recently held conferences at the adjoining

Marriot Hotel in Tampa. Led by First Lady Casey DeSantis, the conservative “Moms for Liberty” pressed issues that drew hundreds of protestors chanting “Racist, sexist, anti-gay

Ron DeSantis go away.” Across the street, over 1,300 Democrats held their Florida Blue convention, ramping up for the August primary and pivotal November 8th general

election. The event provided training and showcased candidates from around the state.



At the top of the November ballot, US Senate candidate Val Demings leads energized Florida Democrats to the November polls. She told them, “Democrats, we are the defenders of democracy. Drum majors for justice.”

Congresswoman Val Demings, who is running for the US Senate against incumbent Republican Marco Rubio addressed the capacity crowd. “Democrats, fighting for justice is hard, fighting to protect constitutional rights is hard, fighting against gun violence is hard, fighting to protect voting rights is hard, fighting for equality is hard, fighting to hold America to its promise is hard, but I am honored to join you on this journey toward a more perfect union,” she said.

Demings continues to criticize Rubio for his opposition to a ban on assault weapons and the suppression of women’s rights. She told the audience, “Women are not going back. Marco Rubio wants to criminalize doctors and ban abortions. But everything that you care about and everything

that I care about is under attack.” Democrats are so angered by the demise of abortion rights and resistance to a ban on assault weapons their projected election turnout has jumped to nearly 80%. It’s not only high for an off presidential election, but it also almost doubles the Republican turnout. Rubio is on the wrong side of abortion and gun issues but his refusal to condemn the January 6 insurrection only adds to his political woes. He has done very little campaigning

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7B)

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ELECTION FEVER 2022

It's Sharief Vs. Book For Florida State Senate



Dr. Barbara Sharief (left) will face-off against State Senator Lauren Book, (right) to see who voters will choose to face the Republican challenger in the Fall.

Miramar City Commission in 2009, she was made vice-mayor the following year. Also in 2010, Sharief was elected to head the Broward County Commission District 8 seat vacated by Diana Wasserman-Rubin.

Book, who was born in Hollywood, is the frontrunner. She has racked up endorsements from a number of organizations

including Broward Teachers' Union, Florida Professional Firefighters and Florida Fraternal Order of Police. She has also raised \$200,003 in May alone - an amount that dwarfs her challenger's haul in the same month.

Campaign records show Sharief, by contrast, raised just \$5,124 in May.

Undaunted, Sharief points out that her rival has "never been on the ballot" which she says gives her an advantage.

"I've been here 21 years; I know what the people are concerned about. These are my people, my neighbors," she added.



BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

It's being called one of the hottest races this August. Who will voters in the largely Caribbean populated District 35 pick as their Primary contender for the Florida State Senate this August?

This August 23rd, the choice is between the first female black mayor of Broward County and a former Miramar City Commissioner and a former educator who has served in the Florida Senate since 2016.

Dr. Barbara Sharief, who says she wears political representation like a badge of honor, is now running against incumbent State Senator Lauren Book in the Democratic primary.

The newly created District 35, which includes Weston, Miramar and Pembroke Pines, are areas with vibrant West Indian communities.

Pitching her working-class roots, the Miami Beach-born Sharief has painted her opponent as entitled and out-of-touch with the challenges of a diverse constituency.

"From the beginning, we made this a campaign about the people, and we've been out there reaching the voters. So far, it's been going very well," she said in an interview with Caribbean Today.

According to Sharief, the foundation of her message is social justice. She notes that many people in District 35 are affected by rising health care

costs, increase in rent and lack of commercial and educational opportunities, especially for persons of color.

With her experience as an elected official, she believes it is critical they have a representative with empathy in Tallahassee.

"I don't think you can understand these struggles unless you've been through them, and I have. It makes me better equipped to handle this job," said Sharief, 50.

Book, 38, has represented District 32 in the Florida State Senate since 2016 when she ran unopposed. In April 2021, she was elected Democratic Senate minority leader after a no-confidence vote in leader Gary Farmer.

She has been running a blitz of television ads, promoting her work but also slamming her challenger, accusing her of defrauding Medicaid twice, and having a soft stance on gun control.

Sharief for her part has denounced Book's ads as smears, particularly an alleged television mailer citing her "shameful record on guns and public safety."

Having lost her father at 14 years-old to gun violence, she described the visual as "everything that's wrong with politics in our country."

A health care professional, Sharief started South Florida Pediatric Homecare, Inc in 2001. After being elected to the

Val Demings Rallies Florida Democrats

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6B) and complaints continue concerning his absence during a time of government crisis. It only strengthens Val Demings momentum as she speaks to powerful organizations like the American Federation of Teachers.

AFT Secretary-Treasurer Fedrick Ingram says Demings

would provide needed change. "Val is the real deal. She understands our community, our state and she will fight for our children and our future. More importantly, she is not afraid to stand on her convictions to better serve us."



MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST PRESENTS

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S 305 BLACK OWNED BUSINESS

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:00 P.M.
Know Your Price Valuing - Black Lives and Property in Miami
 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Andre Perry
 Noted Scholar and Author
 Ampersand Studios
 31 N.E. 17th Street, Miami, FL 33132

Saturday, August 13, 2022 3:00 P.M.
Black Pepper Food and Wine Festival
 Presented by GMCVB
 FIU Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management
 3000 N.E. 151st Street
 North Miami, FL 33181
 Registration: www.bit.ly/BlackPepperGMCVB

Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:00 A.M.
Support BOB 305 Community Workshop: Topic: Infill Housing Developer Workshop
 Stephen P. Clark Center
 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 11-3 (11th Floor)
 Miami, FL 33128

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:00 A.M.
Support BOB 305 Community Workshop: Topic: How to Grow Your Business
 South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
 10950 S.W. 211 Street
 Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 10:00 A.M.
Support BOB 305 Community Workshop: Topic: How to Grow Your Business
 Arcola Lakes Branch Library
 8240 NW 7th Avenue, Miami, FL 33150

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 10:00 A.M.
Support BOB 305 Community Workshop: Topic: Financial Empowerment for Businesses
 Dade County Federal Credit Union
 20295 S. Dixie Highway
 Miami, FL 33189

Tuesday, August 2, 2022 11:30 A.M.
Miami-Dade County's Support BOB 305 Exhibit Unveiling
 Stephen P. Clark Gov Ctr (East Lobby)
 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, FL 33128

Thursday, August 4, 2022 6:00 P.M.
Miami-Dade County's Support BOB 305 Launch Event
 The Urban
 1000 N.W. 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33136

Monday, August 8, 2022 – Wednesday, August 31, 2022
Miami-Dade County's Support BOB 305 Display
 Miami-Dade Public Library, Main Library
 101 W Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 6:00 P.M.
Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust's Youth Services Division Appreciation and Awards Reception
 FIU Kovens Conference Center
 3000 N.E. 151st Street
 North Miami, FL 33181

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 9:00 A.M.
Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust presents Power Summit 2022 Preparing Youth and Communities for Economic Prosperity
 Keynote Speaker: Isiah Thomas, NBA Hall of Famer & Entrepreneur
 FIU Kovens Conference Center
 3000 N.E. 151st Street
 North Miami, FL 33181
 Registration: https://tinyurl.com/MDEATPowerSummit

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BOB Events



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Dr. Barbara Sharief has been serving our community for nearly three decades. A self-made healthcare entrepreneur, and former Broward County Mayor and city and county commissioner, she understands the struggles so many families face.



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- Increase accessibility to high-quality, affordable healthcare
- Diversify our economy to provide more entrepreneurial and career options
- Properly fund our public schools and prioritize our children’s safety
- Ensure that seniors can live their lives safely and with dignity including having affordable prescription drugs
- Support immigration reform to give everyone a chance to achieve the American Dream

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DEMOCRAT FOR STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 35

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DR. BARBARA SHARIEF DEMOCRAT FOR STATE SENATE

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Barbara Sharief, Democrat for State Senate, District 35.

Caribbean Roots Actresses Return In “The Silent Twins”

Two Caribbean roots actresses are set to play the daughters of Caribbean immigrants in Wales in the soon to be released movie, “The Silent Twins.”

Guyanese-born Letitia Wright, who came to fame in ‘Black Panther,’ and Tamara Lawrence, the daughter of a Jamaican immigrant, will play sisters June and Jennifer Gibbons, based on the 1986 true story from Marjorie Wallace.

“The Silent Twins” tells the true story of the sisters who are bullied in school and outcasts due to their heritage. The two developed a unique language spoken only by each other and refused to speak to others. The film recounts the two’s life story, with a focus on how psychiatric services attempted to separate and institutionalize them.

The film, which premiered at Cannes Film Festival to

relatively positive reviews, is directed by Agnieszka Smoczyńska from a script by Andrea Seigel. Wright produces the film alongside Klaudia Śmieja-Rostworowska, Joshua Horsfield, Ben Pugh, Ewa Puszczyńska, Anita Gou and Alicia Van Couvering. It is set for theaters on Sept. 16th.

ABOUT THE ACTRESSES

Wright was born in Georgetown, Guyana in 1993. Her family moved to London, England, when she was seven years old, and she attended school there. She began her career with guest roles in the television series Top Boy, Coming Up, Chasing Shadows, Humans, Doctor Who, and Black Mirror. For the latter, she received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination. She then had her breakthrough for her role

in the 2015 film Urban Hymn, for which the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) named Wright among the 2015 group of BAFTA Breakthrough Brits.

In 2018, she attained global recognition for her portrayal of Shuri in the Marvel Cinematic Universe film Black Panther, for which she won an NAACP Image Award and a SAG Award. She reprised the role in Avengers: Infinity War (2018) and Avengers: Endgame (2019), the latter of which became the second highest-grossing film of all



Guyanese-born Letitia Wright, who came to fame in ‘Black Panther,’ and Tamara Lawrence, the daughter of a Jamaican immigrant, will play sisters June and Jennifer Gibbons, based on the 1986 true story from Marjorie Wallace. (Trailer Screengrab)

time. In 2019, she received the BAFTA Rising Star Award. She also appeared in the 2020 anthology series Small Axe, which earned her a Satellite Award nomination.

Lawrence is a British actress known for her performances as Prince Harry’s republican

girlfriend in the 2017 BBC television film King Charles III, and as Viola in the 2017 production of Twelfth Night at the National Theatre cinecast internationally on NT Live. In 2018 she received the second prize at the Ian Charleson Awards for this performance as Viola.

In December 2018 she starred as Miss July, a former slave on a sugar plantation in 19th-century Jamaica, in the three-part BBC adaptation of Andrea Levy’s novel The Long Song. Lawrence was born in 1994 in Wembley, London.

Her mother was a hospital clinical technician originally from Jamaica, and her father was a delivery driver.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



The National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica Is Coming To South Florida



The National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica is coming to South Florida in October.

Get ready for three performances from The National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, NDTC, this Fall in South Florida.

In celebration of Jamaica’s 60th anniversary of Independence, The Louise Bennett-Coverley Heritage Council will present The NDTC on Saturday, October 1st at the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center and Sunday, October 2nd at The Miramar Cultural Center, in Miramar. For three performances in South Florida under the Patronage of Consul General Oliver Mair. The third Florida performance will include a dedicated performance for children with workshops on Monday, October 3rd also at the Miramar Cultural Center. Colin Smith, President of the Louise Bennett-Coverley Heritage Council (LB-CHC), expressed delight and excitement to have the opportunity to present the NDTC in South Florida as a part of the Jamaica 60 celebration.

“We are looking forward to sold-out houses as the NDTC is an important part of Jamaica’s cultural fabric and this performance outside of Jamaica is long awaited,” he stated.

A full NDTC experience offers an exciting and dynamic event for the entire family to enjoy. Closing each gala performance is a master work and perennial audience favourite from one of the Caribbean’s most brilliant minds and prolific choreographers, co-founder of the NDTC, the late, Ralston Milton “Rex” Nettleford, OM, FIJ, OCC.

The NDTC has performed to critical acclaim in the international arena in regions such as the Caribbean, North, Central and South America and Europe. The Company’s wide-ranging repertoire reflects the creative imagination and cultural experiences of Jamaica and the Caribbean through the lens of choreographers hailing from Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, Barbados and the United States. The last performance of the NDTC in Florida was in 2010. A performance of the Company in 2022 will renew and strengthen the cultural and artistic ties between both countries and bring a rich slice of Jamaica to lovers of dance in South Florida as they celebrate this milestone occasion. The appearance would also promote cultural understanding, appreciation of diversity and

affirm cultural identity through a comprehensive showcasing of artistic excellence that is inherent in the people of the Caribbean. Tickets for both performances are now on sale and range from \$40 to \$95 VIP tickets, which

include a pre-show reception. A special discount to groups of ten or more, as well as to non-profit organizations and churches is available. Tickets for the Sunday, October 1 show are available at smdcac.org and tickets for the

October 2 show are available at miramarculturalcenter.org. For more information visit louisebennettheritage.com



Tanya Stephens And Patra Drop New Single

Internationally acclaimed Jamaican singer-songwriter Tanya Stephens celebrated her 49th birthday by gifting the world with a surprise new single, featuring another chart-topping female artist of Golden Era dancehall music, Patra.

“FIFTY,” the monstrous new collaboration off Stephens’ upcoming album Some Kinda Madness (out September 2nd via Tad’s Record and available now for pre-order), was produced by Tad A. Dawkins Jr.

It finds the legendary artists offering fair warning to anyone who thinks that age might slow down the shenanigans of these two queens of the dancehall:

*“And if yuh think mi bad now wait till mi lick FIFTY, dem a go say a how dah big woman yah so frisky
Want a buddy weh knock it inna gypsy
Bad when mi sober, worse when mi tipsy
And if yuh think we bad now, wait till yuh see half ah century
When a dozen big woman a mek a entry
An we a sip di henny bottle till it empty
Keep up behavior weh upset di gentry.”*

To further demonstrate that age ain’t nothing but a number, Tanya Stephens dropped the “FIFTY” official lyric video as well. It is directed by Romario Rodney and Rayon Smith and invites fans into a grown woman



Tanya Stephens and Patra in the new video for ‘FIFTY.’ (YouTube Screengrab)

bashment party hosted by the “maturing” bad gyal herself. As the dancers drop from headtop to full split, they leave little doubt that there is no substitute for experience.

Of the unexpected, but welcomed combination, Tanya says, “Patra is an unquestionable bad ass! She influenced urban culture and inspired many of us women to embrace our sensuality even as we stood in our strength. Having her bless this track feels like my personal revolution now has a soundtrack and I’m excited to step into my 50’s with this kind of energy!”

Patra broke boundaries in the 1990’s -- a time many consider to be the Golden Era of Dancehall music -- with seminal albums like Queen Of The Pack, which topped the Billboard

Reggae Albums chart, and rude gyal anthems like “Romantic Call,” a collaboration with Compton superstar emcee Yo-Yo.

Patra’s unparalleled success during that time paved the way for future female Jamaican singers and deejays like Tanya Stephens, who also made a name for herself in the following

years with dancehall staples like “Yuh Nuh Ready For This” and

“Goggle,” before establishing herself as one of the island’s most gifted songwriters with unforgettable tunes like “It’s a Pity” and “These Streets.”

“FIFTY” stands as the second official single released from Stephens’ upcoming 20-track album, which also features support from reggae heavyweights like Cedella Marley, Diana King, Big Youth, and Nadine Sutherland, among other guests. Previously released tracks from the Some Kinda Madness project include the steel pan-driven “Zig Ziggler,” the heartfelt ballad “World Goes Round,” and the uplifting single “Diamonds In The Sun (featuring Cedella Marley and Diana King).”



FOOD



www.caribbeantoday.com

This Trinidadian Immigrant Brings Caribbean Flavored Drink Mixers To Texas

A Trinidadian immigrant has expanded his portfolio of simple and versatile Caribbean drink mixers through a collaboration with H-E-B grocery stores in the Lone Star State.

Nigel Smith, the founder of ZURENA, said the blends are made with a blend of Caribbean spices and tropical fruit juices and can be added to

any beverage - alcoholic or non-alcoholic - to deliver a delicious drink with a tropical twist.

Smith immigrated to the USA in his teenage years to join his mother in the U.S. His education began at Rockland Community College, then continued to Howard University and eventually to Stanford University where he earned his

MBA.

Along the way, he had a chance to work for some of the most admired companies in the world, perfecting his trade in strategy, innovation, and shaping disruptive startups for success.

His life motto is “work hard, play harder” and he strives for life balance between career pursuits, being a good dad,

husband and son, and partying like there is no tomorrow whenever he can.

He created ZURENA in 2015 to honor his late grandpa, whose secret recipe he is taking to the world. Nigel named the company after his daughters Zuri and Rena. He currently lives in Silver Spring, MD with his wife, daughters, mom, and mother-in-law. His favorite ZURENA Cocktail is the Ginsu – 2 parts gin + 1 part ZURENA Ginger, served as a martini with a slice of cucumber.

“ZURENA’s core mission is to uplift spirits and bring the positive feel of the Caribbean to any celebration,” said Smith in a statement. “H-E-B is well known for community involvement; pairing with them to expand our retail offerings is a natural choice.”

ZURENA offers aspiring home mixologists the ability to easily craft delicious Caribbean cocktails without the hassle and expense of purchasing a full bar’s worth of mixers. For those looking for a new take on a classic Caribbean recipe or to creatively craft their own concoctions, simply add ZURENA to a favorite spirit, wine, bubbly, or beer for a getaway in every glass. For non-alcoholic alternatives, mix



Caribbean flavoured mixer, ZURENA.

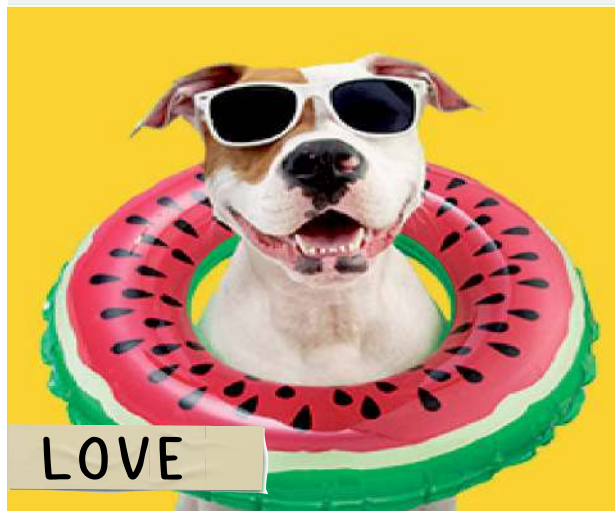
ZURENA with club soda, teas, fresh fruit juices, or crushed ice for high-quality handcrafted mocktails.

H-E-B Grocery Company (H-E-B) is a privately owned supermarket chain with more than 400 stores across Texas and Mexico. Headquartered in San Antonio, the company is known for its fresh foods, quality service, and community involvement.

Home mixologists can purchase ZURENA at select H-E-B retailers in Austin, Houston and San Antonio this summer. ZURENA is also currently available at more than a dozen bars, restaurants, and clubs in the Washington, D.C. metroplex. For more information, recipes, and a full list of retail locations, bars, and restaurants, visit myzurena.com.



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Give This Caribbean Chicken Salad A Shot



Caribbean Broccoli Chicken Salad. (Publix Aprons image)

It’s summer and that means lighter eating right? Here’s a Caribbean inspired chicken salad that is sure to please and provide nutrition too. It’s Caribbean Broccoli Chicken Salad.

Ingredients

- ¾ lb Deli fried chicken tenders
- 1 mango
- 1 lime, for juice
- 1 head Bibb (or iceberg) lettuce
- 3 tablespoons mango chutney (or sweet and sour sauce)
- 2 tablespoons peach preserves
- 3 tablespoons plain low-fat yogurt

- 2 tablespoons light mayonnaise
- 1 (12-oz) bag broccoli slaw
- ½ cup golden raisins
- 2 tablespoons sunflower seeds

Prep

Cut chicken tenders into thin slices.

Peel and slice mango (1 1/2 cups).

Squeeze lime for juice (1 tablespoon).

Remove lettuce core; separate individual leaves.

Directions

Prepare dressing in medium bowl by whisking chutney, preserves, and lime juice until smooth. Stir in yogurt and mayonnaise until blended.

Add slaw, chicken, mango, and raisins; toss to coat.

Arrange lettuce leaves on serving plates and top with salad; sprinkle with sunflower seeds. Serve.

- Publix Aprons Simple Meals



Report Slams Florida Over Transgender Treatment Plan

National medical and legal researchers have issued a report condemning Florida health officials' plan to block Medicaid coverage for gender-dysphoria treatments, saying the move lacks "any persuasive scientific or medical justification."

The state Agency for Health Care Administration in June rolled out a proposed rule

that would prevent Medicaid reimbursements for treatments such as puberty-blocking medication and hormone therapy for transgender people.

The agency last week held a raucous hearing on the plan, with one supporter of the proposal decrying the treatments as "crimes against humanity" and others saying they should be outlawed

altogether.

Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration supported the proposal in a June 2 report whose authors included doctors and researchers who oppose medical care for gender dysphoria.

The state report said the Medicaid program "has determined that the research supporting sex reassignment

treatment is insufficient to demonstrate efficacy and safety."

But seven scientists and a Yale law professor have countered with a report that said the state study's "conclusions are incorrect and scientifically unfounded."

The critical report was released by Yale School of Medicine researchers and professors, including two who work for the Yale Pediatric Gender Program; a University of Alabama at Birmingham professor of pediatrics and pediatric endocrinology; a University of Texas Southwestern psychiatry professor who works as a psychologist at the Children's Medical Center in Dallas; and a Yale Law School professor.

"The June 2 report purports to be a review of the scientific and medical evidence but is, in fact, fundamentally unscientific," the researchers wrote.

"We are alarmed that Florida's health care agency has

adopted a purportedly scientific report that so blatantly violates the basic tenets of scientific inquiry. The report makes false statements and contains glaring errors regarding science, statistical methods, and medicine."

The researchers said the state study ignores "established science" and instead "relies on biased and discredited sources, stereotyping, and purported 'expert' reports that carry no scientific weight."

The DeSantis administration blasted the critique.

"This is simply another example of the left-wing academia propaganda machine arrogantly demanding you follow their words and not the clear evidence-based science sitting right in front of you," Agency for Health Care Administration spokesman Brock Juarez said in an email.

- *Rewritten from CBS Miami*



How To Work Out Without Excuses



It's all-too common for those embarking on a regular exercise routine to skip a planned workout for one reason or another. Here are some of the most common excuses that people make not to exercise, along with some solutions to overcome these challenges:

"I need low-impact exercises." Many traditional workouts are tough on joints, which over time, can cause overuse injuries or exacerbate existing conditions. To achieve your fitness goals pain-free, consider low-impact exercises such as yoga, swimming and elliptical machines.

"I don't have the space to work out at home." Whether you live in a small apartment or just can't dedicate too much space to a home gym, there's good news. Certain manufacturers of exercise equipment have your back and are developing versatile, sleek fitness equipment to address your needs. At less than 23 pounds, the Cubii Total

Body+ (available now for pre-order) is a good example of a compact machine offering a low-impact, approachable and achievable workout that targets everything from abs and arms to quads and calves. With a low-impact motion, you can hit eight key muscle groups using one machine. Its elliptical component features 12 resistance levels that can be adjusted from your phone, and its resistance bands range from 2 to 7 pounds, allowing you, to tone, sculpt and strengthen your upper body, no matter what your fitness level is.

"I'm not seeing results." If you've been working out for a little while and haven't seen immediate results, don't get discouraged. Whether your fitness goal centers around weight loss or getting toned, it's important to remember that little changes add up over time.

"I'm just not motivated." If keeping the exercise spark alive is difficult, consider turning to tech. New apps that connect to

your equipment via Bluetooth, like the Cubii App, can send you reminders to get moving, as well as help you track your goals. They can also help you stay accountable by allowing you to connect with a fitness community and compete with friends, or join live and on-demand classes.

"I don't have any time." Between work, family and other commitments, finding the time to hit the gym for an hour or more isn't always possible. But practicing self-care and prioritizing your own health and wellness is essential. What you may not realize is that a high-quality workout doesn't need to happen in a specific place or require a lot of time. In fact, some forms of exercise can occur while you're working or watching TV. What's more, even a short burst of activity is very beneficial to getting you strong, boosting your metabolism and energy, and improving your mood. That's where a great versatile piece of equipment for the home or office can come into play.

For example, unlike a traditional standalone piece of fitness equipment, the Cubii Total Body+ is a 2-in-1 system that combines cardio with upper body strength training for a full-body workout you can do anytime, anywhere. To learn more about how to get active today, visit cubii.com.

Creating a new exercise habit can be an uphill struggle, especially if you are short on time, space or motivation. Luckily, new tools are emerging that can help you work out without excuses.

- *StatePoint*



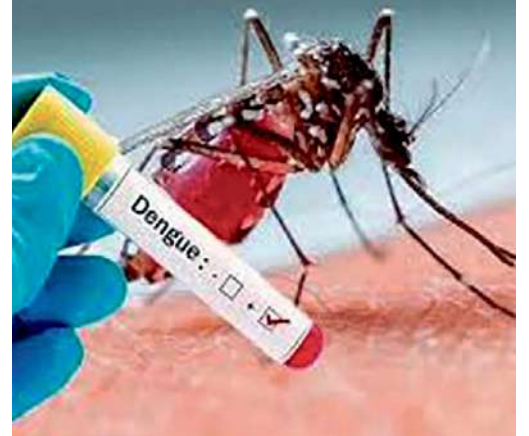
Cuban Population At Increased Risk For Dengue Fever

Cuba's Health Minister Carilda Peña Garcia has voiced concern about a spike in the mosquito borne Dengue Fever as three serotypes of Dengue Fever out of four present in Latin America and the Caribbean, are in Cuba.

Garcia warned the public that if a person contracts more than one strain of the disease, there is the increased possibility of them having hemorrhagic dengue.

According to Garcia, the increase in cases of Dengue Fever is not only a Cuban problem, as more than two million Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya cases were recently detected over the past few weeks in the Americas

Since May and June, Cuba witnessed an increase of Dengue cases due to the rainy season and



the life cycle of the mosquito.

The trend is expected to last till November. Dr. Madelaine Rivera, who heads the anti-vector fight in the Health Ministry here said that 71 Cuban municipalities have reported a spike in Dengue Fever and based on this everything needs to be done to prevent an epidemic.

- *CMC*



Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves. If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well? We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to. If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business? If you want to project a favorable image of your company, in order to win customers, you should keep your company with good friends and...dress your company well in...

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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

TRAVEL NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

American Airlines Expands Its Caribbean Flight Options



American Airlines has also expanded flights to Martinique. (Photo by Mini Bonz on Unsplash)

American Airlines is definitely working hard to boost its Caribbean flight options. The carrier recently added more flights to Martinique for the

rest of the summer season. The world's largest airline is now flying four times per week between Miami and a place that's very much the beating heart of

the French Caribbean. American is currently operating flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from Miami

International Airport and Martinique's Aime Cesaire International Airport outside Fort-de-France.

The service will be running through at least Sept. 10th.

This comes as US officials recently approved a request by American Airlines to resume flights to five destinations in Cuba that were stopped by the Trump administration.

American will resume flights from Miami to Santa Clara, Varadero, Holguin, Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba in early November.

American Airlines also recently announced it will be increasing its flights to the twin-

island destination, with plans to extend its daily service from New York to Antigua's VC Bird International Airport through the early fall and winter tourist seasons.

The new schedule means Antigua and Barbuda will now be seeing seven flights a week from New York through at least the end of this year.

"Demand for Antigua and Barbuda is extremely strong at this moment, and from all indications and feedback from our airline and hotel partners who are working to keep up with the surge in consumer demand, we will have a significantly busy summer straight into winter similar to what was experienced last year," said Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez.



Wins For Jamaica

With a continuing emphasis on being one of the world's leading tourism destinations, Jamaica was recently recognized with two 2022 WAVE (Western Advisors' Vote of Excellence) Awards by TravelAge West.

The destination has been awarded 'Destination with the Highest Client Satisfaction, Caribbean' and 'International Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support.' In the 17-year history of these awards, it is the 11th time Jamaica has earned the international honor, which is the top distinction.

"We are very grateful to receive multiple awards including the recognition of International Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support, which no other destination has won so many times," said Director of Tourism,

Jamaica, Donovan White. "Our tourist board works very hard to provide the highest level of support to our valued travel trade partners, as well as top tier service to all travelers visiting the destination, so receiving this acknowledgement by TravelAge West and its advisor readers is truly a proud moment for us."

Travel advisor professionals throughout 15 Western states and readers of TravelAge West voted on the best-of-the-best from a list of Editor's Pick award recipients. The winners were chosen after careful review by Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Kenneth Shapiro and the editorial team of TravelAge West. Review methods included product analysis, on-site visits, a survey of a select group of industry advisors and industry experts, and online research.



This Caribbean Island Removes Testing Rules



The British Virgin Islands is now part of a growing collection of destinations that require no testing or vaccination proof in order to enter.

In a major shift, the British Virgin Islands has removed pre-testing requirements for travelers. This means travelers no longer have to show proof of a negative test to enter the British overseas territory.

Travelers are also no longer required to be screened upon arrival for Covid, according to the latest health update from the destination.

The British Virgin Islands is now following the neighboring US Virgin Islands, which made

the same move back in May. It could be a big boost for the British Virgin Islands, whose tourism industry has struggled significantly since the onset of the pandemic.

"Travelers are urged take appropriate precautions to prevent the infection of the virus where necessary such as general sanitation and hand washing measures," the British Virgin Islands' government said in a statement. "The wearing of face masks/coverings are no

longer mandated by law but are allowed as a matter of choice in public spaces, or as a policy of a business place or other establishment."

The British Virgin Islands is now part of a growing collection of destinations that require no testing or vaccination proof in order to enter.

- *Rewritten from Caribbean Journal*



Final Expense Insurance

So many of us are unprepared financially when our Love One dies, or more unfortunate, when we die.

Now is the time for us to consider a final expense plan, which would eliminate the confusion and headache of funding funeral expenses from our savings.

Neville Sharpe will carefully explain how you can receive between \$7,000 and \$50,000 for funeral expenses within 24 hours after producing a death certificate. No more begging for help from strangers, protect your self-respect.

Everything will be taken care of, the Funeral Director, the plot and other expense, leaving you time to grieve.



Call **Neville Sharpe** at **754-214-4132** for **PEACE OF MIND**

Haitian Carrier Establishes New Route From Dominican Republic To Jamaica

The private Haitian airline, Sunrise Airways, has announced the establishment of a new direct route between Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic and Kingston, Jamaica.

Starting August 11th, the direct flight between the Sunrise Airways hub at La Isabela

International Airport – also known as Joaquín Balaguer International Airport in the Dominican Republic – and Kingston, Jamaica, will take place on Thursdays and Sundays.

The new route is described as one that will offer passengers

new business and tourism opportunities. The 90-minute flights will be operated by the Dominican subsidiary of Sunrise Airways.

- *CMC*



Jamaica's Reggae Girlz Are World Cup Bound



Kalyssa Vanzanten scored the game winner for Jamaica against Costa Rica in the third-place match at Estadio BBVA on July 19, 2022. (Photo: CONCACAF)

The Reggae Girlz are heading to the World Cup next year. The Girlz finished in third place in the 2022 CONCACAF Women's Championship (CWC) for the second time in the tournament's history, thanks to a late goal from Kalyssa Vanzanten

in their match against Costa Rica.

Jamaica, leaving Monterrey World Cup-bound and ready to face the tournament's runner-up, Canada in next year's Olympic play-in, edged out their opponents 1-0 in extra time during the third-place match at the Estadio BBVA on July 19th. Their goal came in the 102nd

minute when Kalyssa Vanzanten, who had subbed on three minutes earlier, scored the first goal of the night with a right-footed finish, putting her team in position for the win.

The excitement went on until the last minutes. In the 117th minute, Fabiola Villalobos had the last chance for Costa Rica, but Spencer was ready to

stop her shot to nail down the Jamaican victory.

Jamaica qualified for the 2023 Women's World Cup after defeating Haiti 4-0 in a must-win game. The United States were the eventual 2022 CWC Champions after downing Canada 1-0.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16A)

After Lauderhill Loss, Simmons Says Search For Consistency Continues For Windies



Left-hander Shimron Hetmyer was the lone shining star, hitting 50 not out during his half-century for the West Indies in Lauderhill. (Photo courtesy CWI Media via CMC)

and that's what we need now.

"We need consistency, but understanding the situation in each game, and knowing how we play that moment is important."

Simmons said his side showed "glimpses" of what they were capable against the No. 1 side in the world, but they never put it altogether to push the visitors.

"It's always going to be difficult playing against India because they are the best T20I team in the world, man for man," he said.

"But I think we showed in glimpses that we are capable of competing with them, sometimes with the ball, sometimes with the bat..."

"The lesson we must take from this series is that we have to put everything together on the day to beat the top teams."

Simmons comments came after the fifth and final T20I in which West Indies failed to bat the maximum 20 overs, were bowled out for exactly 100, and lost by 88 runs.

They start a series of three T20Is against New Zealand on Wednesday at Sabina Park in Jamaica during which Simmons said he and the selection panel, led by former West Indies opener, Desmond Haynes will hope to firmly identify a core of players to form the squad for the ICC T20I World Cup later this year in Australia.

"It's difficult, but we have three more matches, and we will sit down after that and make decisions about who fits into the way we want to play," Simmons said.

"I think the three matches will be important for a lot of players and some players will be rested, but in general after that we will definitely have to make a decision."

West Indies have won only six of their 16 T20Is this year and have won only three of their 16 T20Is against New Zealand.

- CMC



West Indies head coach Phil Simmons said the main lesson for his side coming out of their limited-overs series against India is learning to value their wicket more.

West Indies were swept in their series of three One-day Internationals against the Indians and crumbled to a 1-4 loss against the same opponents in a series of five Twenty20 Internationals that ended last Saturday and Sunday with heavy defeats at the Central Broward Regional Park in this American city.

"We give away our wickets too cheaply," Simmons said. "We have been there. We have been up with the run rate, but we keep losing too many wickets, and that's the main lesson we can learn from this series."

"The main thing is that we have to bat in a format ... but we need to learn to stop losing wickets. If we learn to stop losing wickets, we will make big totals because we have all the players."

Simmons added: "(Shimron) Hetmyer has shown he is back, we have Rovman (Powell), we have (Nicholas) Pooran, but nobody has been consistent throughout the series,

NOTICE TO QUALIFIED FIRMS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Basketball Properties, Ltd. (the "Manager") will be accepting sealed Statements of Qualifications for:

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

QUALIFICATION OF GENERAL CONTRACTORS FOR MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AT THE FTX ARENA RFQ NO. 2022-03

The Manager is requesting Statements of Qualifications from General Contractors to qualify for the purpose of performing Miscellaneous Construction Services on an as needed basis at the FTX Arena (formerly the American Airlines Arena, the "Arena"). Sealed Statements of Qualifications must be received by **3:00 p.m. on Friday September 9, 2022, (the "Submittal Deadline")** at Gate 4 of the Arena, located at 601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL ("Gate 4"). The official clock at the Manager's reception desk shall govern. Statements of Qualifications received after this time will not be considered. The Statements of Qualifications will be publicly opened at Gate 4 immediately after the Submittal Deadline.

THE SERVICES

The purpose of this RFQ is to establish a highly qualified pool of general contractors under continuing contracts with the Manager to perform various construction projects at the Arena, which may include, but not limited to, facility renovations and improvements; interior remodeling/refreshing; cabinetry work, locker and bathroom repairs and renovations and other miscellaneous Arena facility maintenance, repairs, end of product life replacements, and improvements on a strict construction schedule (the "Services"). The Manager intends to contract with multiple highly qualified firms to perform the Services, on an as needed basis, and in a timely and efficient manner that enables the Manager to maintain an active sports and entertainment Arena schedule. The initial term of the continuing services contract(s) is anticipated to be for five (5) years. The Services shall be performed according to high-quality standards that will enable the structure to remain a first-class facility. The successful firm shall be required to adhere to Miami-Dade County's small business participation measures applicable to the Services and to submit monthly progress reports and compliance documentation to Miami-Dade County's Small Business Development Office.

AVAILABILITY OF RFQ DOCUMENTS

Interested parties may pick up a Request for Qualifications for the Project (the "RFQ") at Gate 4 from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. Interested parties may also request an electronic version of the RFQ by emailing RFQSubmissions@heat.com. Statements of Qualifications shall be submitted using the form(s) provided in the RFQ.

EXPERIENCE

Firms submitting Statements of Qualifications shall satisfy **all** of the following:

- Shall have been in continuous business in Miami-Dade or Broward Counties for the past five years;
- Shall have had a Miami-Dade and/or Broward office for a minimum of the past five years;
- Shall have been continuously incorporated for a minimum of the past five years;
- Shall have been in business as a general contractor for a minimum of the past seven years;
- Shall have served as the general contractor and successfully completed a minimum of three projects within the past seven years each of which (a) had a cost of \$300,000 or more, (b) were within the United States, and (c) consisted of construction, maintenance and repair, renovation or refresh of commercial buildings of a size, scope and complexity similar to the Arena;
- Shall demonstrate successful completion of first-class facility improvements, repairs, and renovations in a timely manner within expedited time frames; and
- Shall demonstrate the successful construction, or significant renovation or repair of at least two concrete buildings in South Florida located within a High Velocity Hurricane Zone.

MANDATORY PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE

A **mandatory** pre-qualification conference will commence promptly at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022, virtually via Microsoft Teams**. Interested parties shall email RFQSubmissions@heat.com at least 24 hours prior to the pre-qualification conference and a Microsoft Teams link will be provided to access the conference. All firms planning to submit a Statement of Qualifications are required to have their proposed project superintendent attend this conference. Failure of a firm, including the firm's superintendent, to be present for the entire conference, beginning at the time stated above and concluding at the dismissal of the mandatory pre-qualification conference by the Manager, shall render a firm to be deemed non-responsive and their Statement of Qualifications shall not be considered for award. Decisions of the Manager shall be final. The official clock at the location of the mandatory pre-qualification conference shall govern.

Statements of Qualifications shall be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the RFQ. Any questions concerning this Notice or the RFQ shall be submitted to the Special Projects Team, FTX Arena by email at RFQSubmissions@heat.com by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2022.

All firms are advised that the Manager has not authorized the use of the name, likeness or other intellectual property rights of the Manager, the Arena, FTX or the Miami Heat and that any such use by unauthorized persons is strictly prohibited to the fullest extent permitted by law.

All firms are advised that the Manager will not supply or sell materials to firms in connection with submission or preparation of Statements of Qualifications.

The Manager reserves the right to reject any and all Statements of Qualifications, to waive any informality in a Statement of Qualifications and to make awards in the best interests of the Manager and the Arena.

Call Him Dr. Bolt

He is now not just the “fastest man alive” but Dr. Usain Bolt.

The Jamaican Olympic champion was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by Brunel University in London, a place where he trained several times during his career, including in preparations for the 2012 London Olympics where he won three gold medals.

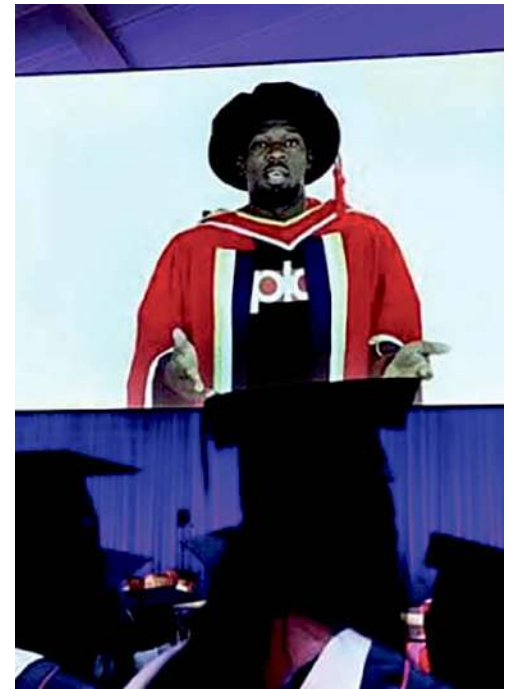
Bolt thanked the university for the honorary degree and said he appreciated it. He went on to tell graduates at the university’s Indoor Athletics Center in Uxbridge that “hard work does pay off” and advised them to remember that the path to success is not easy and to expect “ups and downs.”

“You will fail,” he warned,

but added that they should use any failure as an opportunity to learn and to try again. He said that he never knew when he started out as a young man that he would “be this great.” Bolt also told graduates to never give up their dreams and “always work hard, dedicate yourself, and remember, anything is possible.”

Costas Karageorghis, Professor of Sport and Exercise Psychology at Brunel, welcomed the eight-time Olympic gold medalist to the stage via video from Jamaica at the university’s graduation event on July 12, 2022, saying that it was a “delight to welcome” the athlete back to the university to recognize his achievements on the track and in promotion sport and having a positive attitude toward life. The professor added that the university is very proud to have had a small part in Bolt’s “journey to greatness.”

Usain Bolt, 35, retired from competitive track and field in 2017 but retains the world records in the 100-meter and 200-meter distances. He also shares in the 4×100-meter record, which he helped to establish following his training at Brunel in 2012. Bolt’s 100-meter record was set in Berlin in 2009 and remains more than one-tenth of a second faster than the second-fastest time and almost two-tenths of a second faster than the fastest sprint time recorded in 2022 to



Usain Bolt was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by Brunel University in London, a place where he trained several times during his career, including in preparations for the 2012 London Olympics where he won three gold medals.

date. He previously received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from the University of the West Indies Mona in 2011 and was offered an honorary doctorate for Distinction in Sport from Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 2010.

- *Rewritten from Guardian.com*
★

2023 World Cup Soccer Qualifiers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15A)
The 2023 Women’s World Cup will be the first 32-team event of its kind and qualifying for a trip to Australia and New Zealand next summer is unique all over the world. In only one region, Europe, there’s a dedicated qualifying tournament solely for the competition, where 11 nations will directly punch their tickets.

QUALIFIED TEAMS:

- **Jamaica** (Concacaf W Championship semifinalist; Second appearance)
- **United States** (Concacaf W Championship finalist; Ninth appearance)
- **Canada** (Concacaf W Championship finalist; Eighth appearance)
- **Australia** (Host nation; Eighth appearance)
- **New Zealand** (Host nation; Sixth appearance)
- **Japan** (AFC Asian Cup semifinalist; Ninth appearance)
- **Philippines** (AFC Asian Cup semifinalist; First appearance)
- **South Korea** (AFC Asian Cup runner-up; Fourth appearance)
- **China** (AFC Asian Cup

- winner; Eighth appearance)
- **Vietnam** (AFC Asian Cup playoff winner; First appearance)
- **Sweden** (UEFA World Cup qualifying Group A winner; Ninth appearance)
- **Spain** (UEFA World Cup qualifying Group B winner; Third appearance)
- **Denmark** (UEFA World Cup qualifying Group E winner; Fifth appearance)
- **France** (UEFA World Cup qualifying Group I winner; Fifth appearance)
- **Costa Rica** (Concacaf W Championship semifinalist; Second appearance)
- **Zambia** (Africa Cup of Nations semifinalist; First appearance)
- **Morocco** (Africa Cup of Nations semifinalist; First appearance)
- **Nigeria** (Africa Cup of Nations semifinalist; Ninth appearance)
- **South Africa** (Africa Cup of Nations semifinalist; Second appearance)

- *Rewritten from CMC & SI.com*
★

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With the expansion of medical marijuana use across Florida and the U.S., more dispensaries and medical facilities are hiring cannabis nurses. What exactly do they do and how are they different from a registered nurse?

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Watch now to join the conversation.



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Everything You Need To Know About Funding College With Student Loans

While the majority of parents today strongly value higher education, that doesn't always alleviate their sticker shock when it comes to college-related costs.

A new College Ave survey finds that 91% of parents believe a college degree is important for their child's future. At the same time, 74% of parents found the cost of college surprisingly high. From having their children kick in- 46% of parents strongly believe their children should financially contribute to their education -- to borrowing -- 16% currently or plan to take out private student loans - many families explore a range of avenues for funding college.

"If you'll be using private student loans to fund college, it's important to create a budget and do your research," says Angela Colatriano, chief marketing officer at College Ave Student Loans. "Having a plan can help you avoid surprises down the line and reduce the overall cost of your loan."

Here's What To Know:

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Before even considering private student loans, Colatriano notes that it's essential to apply for scholarships and to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at FAFSA.gov to determine your child's eligibility for certain scholarships, grants, work-study, and federal student loans. You should also explore cost-saving housing options and ways to spend less on school supplies, such as buying used textbooks.

SHOPPING AROUND

If federal student loans don't cover your remaining costs, shop around to find the right private student loan, advises Colatriano. Here are four factors to consider when comparing loan options:



1. Competitive rates: Securing a lower interest rate can help you land lower monthly payments and pay less interest over the life of your loan. To get a sense of the overall cost of the loan and your monthly loan payments, use the student loan calculator at CollegeAve.com.

2. Flexible loan terms: Find a student loan with a variety of repayment options. Some lenders, like College Ave, let you choose how long you want to repay your loan, and whether

to start making payments right away or defer until after graduation. The important thing is to select a loan with terms that fit your budget.

3. Fees: Private student loans don't typically have origination fees, but you should still take time to check. You should also make sure your loans don't have any prepayment penalties.

4. Positive company reviews: Only work with a reputable, honest company. Check the Better Business Bureau for accreditation and read reviews to learn about customer experiences and see each company's customer ratings.

TAKING OUT A LOAN

Wondering how much to borrow? "A good rule of thumb is to figure out what your student's expected annual salary after graduation will be and then try to keep your total borrowing below that amount," says

Colatriano. "For parents with strong credit who want to take on the debt alone, parent loans can be a good choice."

For competitive rates, flexible loan terms and great customer service, check out specialists in the industry with College Ave Student Loans. The lender offers private student loans and parent loans, and its simple 3-minute application can quickly determine your eligibility, helping your family breathe easy from day one of the process.

To learn more and for additional resources, visit collegeave.com.

Bottom line? Being a strategic borrower and finding a simple loan experience can help your family get on with what matters most: preparing for a bright future.

- **StatePoint**



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BACK TO SCHOOL



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South Florida's Only HBCU Extends Contract Of President



The Board of Trustees of South Florida's Only Historically Black College and University, the Florida Memorial University Board, recently unanimously voted to extend the contract of Dr. Jaffus Hardrick for an additional five years.

The Board of Trustees of South Florida's Only Historically Black College and University, the Florida Memorial University Board, recently unanimously voted to extend the contract of Dr. Jaffus Hardrick for an additional five years.

"I have great love for Florida Memorial University. I am a graduate, a contributor, and I am extremely pleased to see this University moving in the right direction under Dr. Hardrick's leadership," said William C. McCormick, Chairman of FMU's Board of Trustees. "We will remain focused on achieving the goals that will bring FMU into the future."

Dr. Hardrick began laying a foundation to elevate South

Florida's only Historically Black College and University to a world-class institution in 2018. The key to this transformation was focusing on five strategic areas: student success, academic quality, operational excellence, financial solvency, and relationship development.

Under Dr. Hardrick's leadership, FMU's accreditation was reinstated. On June 16, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees voted to remove the University's sanction, Probation for Good Cause.

FMU is currently experiencing a 306 percent increase in enrollment commitments for Fall 2022,

compared to 2021, with degree offerings in aviation, education, computer science, healthcare, renewable energy, and innovation technology, amongst many others.

In addition to academic accomplishments, Dr. Hardrick restored FMU's football team after 62 years, implemented an award-winning marching band, introduced an Esports curriculum, and launched women's softball, women's flag football, women's beach volleyball, and junior varsity basketball and baseball to uplift campus culture.

During his tenure, one of the most commendable feats achieved by Dr. Hardrick has been the restoration of the University's finances. He has secured \$2.4

million for aviation and science renovations, and more than \$12 million in private and government funding. Overall donor giving has increased by 30 percent year-over-year.

The University is now financially stable, academically sound, and continues ascending to excellence. FMU has formed strong partnerships with renowned corporations and organizations such as the Miami Dolphins, Miami Heat, Lennar Foundation, Knight Foundation, and many others which helps advance student success, academic quality, and overall operational excellence.

"The vision for our university's future is transformative and invigorating,"

said Dr. Hardrick. "I look forward to continuing to work with our Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and staff, students, alumni, and partners to grow and unify our university with the greater community. I am truly thankful to everyone who believes in FMU and our mission."

Founded in 1879, Florida Memorial University is the only Historically Black College and University in South Florida. FMU is a private, co-educational, culturally diverse institution that offers 28 undergraduate programs, four graduate programs, and several professional programs. Visit www.fmuniv.edu to learn more about the University.



Miami Dade College Gets \$100,000 Comcast Grant To Advance Digital Equity

Comcast recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to Miami Dade College (MDC), as part of its Digital Adoption Initiative, aiming to bridge the digital divide and increase digital equity in South Florida communities.

The grant funding will be used to teach MDC students to become Digital Navigators, individuals affiliated with trusted community organizations who are trained to help people access the Internet, use devices, and build digital skills. Once their training is complete, the new MDC Digital Navigators will begin working in South Florida communities with a low digital adoption rate. Members of community-based organizations will also be trained to become digital instructors to provide digital literacy courses for their clients and communities.

It is estimated that Miami-Dade County has the third highest percentage of households without an internet subscription (20.5%), prompting the need to increase access for digital literacy in underserved and undeveloped areas.

Set to launch this fall, the Digital Navigators program will provide participating students

with the tools necessary to bridge the digital divide in unconnected neighborhoods and households, including instruction from high-trained digital instructors, free tuition, service-learning hours and a \$250 stipend. The students will show residents how they can go online to discover and access critical resources and benefits, including food support, government assistance programs, employment opportunities and more.

The funding follows the announcement of a nationwide study by the Boston Consulting Group, which found that Digital Navigators are critical to closing the digital divide and reducing socioeconomic inequalities by helping more people get online.

"Solving complex problems that plague our communities, like digital inequality and lack of Internet access, requires collaboration and ingenuity," said Miami Dade College President Madeline Pumariaga. "Miami Dade College is proud to be working with Comcast, one of the largest technology companies in the world, on the new Digital Navigators program. This unique initiative gives our students the

opportunity to not only learn about a real-world problem, but also immediately use their newly acquired knowledge and skills to help solve it in their communities."

"Since we first launched our Internet Essentials program more than a decade ago, we knew that getting Internet access to unconnected households was just the beginning," said Javier Garcia, Senior Vice President of Comcast in Florida. "It is just as critical to make sure people understand how to best take advantage of all the Internet has to offer. Now with the Digital Navigators program, we are taking another important step to engage directly with those in need and continue to make progress in closing the digital divide."

Digital Navigators is a part of Project UP, Comcast's comprehensive, one-billion-dollar initiative to advance digital equity over the next ten years and reach millions of people with the skills, opportunities and resources they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world. For more information, visit mdc.edu.





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Cool Sites And Apps To Help Connect With New College Classmates

Heading off to college can be an exciting, yet stressful time. You'll be moving away from the friends and family you've known your whole life and will be living with roommates and making completely new groups of friends.

Luckily, (especially for shy students out there) there are many social media platforms and apps to help meet people, connect and showcase your personality. Here are just a few to consider:

A New Way of Networking

For students just starting their college search, in the application process or already in college, the free ZeeMee app provides a variety of networking features for each step of the way. It allows students applying to college to supplement their admissions materials with a collection of images, videos and documents that showcase their

achievements beyond grades and essays. And once admitted, community and chat features offer an easy way to connect and make friends at your school.

Personalized Greetings to Show Your Personality

Whether you're celebrating lifelong friends at their graduation parties or making your new connections feel special, there is a SmashUp to be shared. SmashUps by American Greetings are smile-inducing sharable videos that feature celebrities, fun characters and selfies that can be personalized with hundreds of names for numerous occasions. Simply find the SmashUp that showcases your personality; personalize it and share via email, text or social media. Plus, with a monthly, yearly or two-year American Greetings account, you'll be able to send an unlimited number of videos to all the new friends you



make in the coming semesters. To sign up for a SmashUps membership, available for \$6.99/month or \$29.99/year, visit www.americangreetings.com.

Connect, Don't Creep

As you prepare to meet your new roommate and classmates at orientation, social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat are great ways to communicate

with your new friends and build relationships. One word of advice: don't creep on older posts in their social media profiles. Why? Because you may formulate opinions about them before you even get to know each other. You've likely changed quite a bit through your high school years, and likely so have others. And let's be real – it's easy to misrepresent yourself online.

Deck Out Your Dorm

Moving into a dorm requires a lot of stuff, and it can be difficult to determine what you'll need to bring versus what your new roommates may contribute. A college dorm registry is the ideal way for each of you to add everything on your checklist to one convenient gift list that you -- or your friends and family -- can shop with ease. The free MyRegistry.com site and app allows you to create and then sync your registry from your favorite stores to take advantage of their perks. For example, Target offers a great discount on remaining registry items when you shop online. A win-win!

With a few new apps, you'll be on your way to college connection success.

- StatePoint



Shop Smart and Spend Less This Back-to-School Season



\$3 on qualifying \$15 or more supply purchases in the stationery, cleaning and paper, and houseware categories through September 9, 2022. All offers are available through DG Digital Coupons online and in the DG App, where customers can load coupons

and rewards on an easy-to-use platform and redeem them at checkout.

Healthier Eating

Back-to-school also means after school activities such as clubs and athletics. While juggling practices, rehearsals and club meetings, consider packing healthier snacks to support a busy schedule. Meal prep can also be helpful on busy days, and Dollar General's DG Easy Meals provides access to simple recipes with affordable ingredients to make breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner easy and stress-free. Entrees like Pecan-Crusted Salmon or Buffalo Chicken Pizza can be made ahead and stored in the fridge or freezer until ready to eat. Dollar General also offers Better For You recipes that provide healthier meal options featuring ingredients available at DG stores.

Organization Necessities

As the school year begins and schedules fill up, some find it harder to stay organized. Use a customizable planner or calendar to remind you of pick-up times, parent-teacher conferences and other important appointments. These tools are also great for high school or college students managing a new class schedule.

As summer nights shorten and the school year approaches, you may be looking for ways to reduce the stress and costs of back-to-school preparations and ease into a new routine.

Thankfully, the experts at Dollar General are offering families suggestions for an easy and affordable return to classes.

School Supplies

Start by separating and categorizing students' supplies lists and compare to items that may be left over from the previous school year. To pick up needs in one easy stop, visit a local Dollar General to purchase school supplies that are colorful and cost-effective, with over 100 back-to-school items priced at \$1 or less. School and classroom essentials may include notebooks, coloring supplies, backpacks, a reusable water bottle and more. Additionally, a variety of hand sanitizers starting at \$1 can be easily placed into lunchboxes, desks, pencil cases or given to school staff to help stop the spread of germs.

For teachers who want to save big in 2022, sign up for a DG account and get verified for 30% off qualified items on up to four shopping trips through September 9, 2022. Additionally, customers can save

Write out chores on a dry erase board, which can be secured to the side of the fridge, to keep track of daily duties. Finally, if your surfaces tend to collect clutter, a large canvas storage

container can be a great way to keep items together for a quick cleanup.

With these back-to-school tips and tricks, you can send students of all ages to their

classes prepared with everything on the list, all while saving time and money in the process.

- StatePoint



The October issue of Caribbean Today will feature a comprehensive examination of how the healthcare industry serves the Caribbean community. With a proven track record now in our 33rd year of service to readers in the United States and the Caribbean Basin, Caribbean Today reaches an audience of over 112,000 highly qualified readers.

They have median household income of \$63,000 and enjoy a higher disposable income. 19% have a college degree, 32% have some college. In today's economy, our

readers are highly esteemed. 59.6% own their own homes.

76% are between 25-54 years of age (readership study conducted by Circulation Verification Council). Caribbean Today is uniquely positioned to deliver product, retail and services messages to a community with which it is identified. Miami Dade Communications Department ranks Caribbean Today sixth overall out of the 72 publications that it does business with, and number one, as a Black publication.

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PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS

Prescription opioids can be prescribed by doctors to treat moderate-to-severe pain but can also have serious risks and side effects.

COMMON TYPES ARE

OXYCODONE (OXYCONTIN), HYDROCODONE (VICODIN), MORPHINE, AND METHADONE.

Prescription opioids can be used to treat moderate-to-severe pain and are often prescribed following surgery or injury, or for health conditions such as cancer. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the use of prescription opioids for the treatment of chronic, non-cancer pain, such as back pain or osteoarthritis, despite serious risks and the lack of evidence about their long-term effectiveness.

WHEN THE PRESCRIPTION BECOMES THE PROBLEM

- ✓ More than 191 million opioid prescriptions were dispensed to American patients in 2017—with wide variation across states.¹
- ✓ Health care providers in the highest prescribing state, Alabama, wrote almost three times as many of these prescriptions per person as those in the lowest prescribing state, Hawaii.¹
- ✓ Studies suggest that regional variation in use of prescription opioids cannot be explained by the underlying health status of the population.²
- ✓ The most common drugs involved in prescription opioid overdose deaths include:
 - Methadone
 - Oxycodone (such as OxyContin[®])
 - Hydrocodone (such as Vicodin[®])³



To reverse this epidemic, we need to improve the way we treat pain. We must prevent abuse, addiction, and overdose before they start.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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